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Kidnappers threaten U.S.

BEIRUT (AP) — Kidnappers holding two American hostages Saturday held the United States responsible for the massacre of eight Palestinian workers near Tel Aviv and vowed to make the United States and Israel "pay the price." The threat was made by the Organisation of Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine in a handwritten statement delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut. The Arabic-language statement was accompanied by a picture of U.S. hostages Jesse Turner and Alann Steen, who were kidnapped Jan. 24, 1987 from Beirut University College where they taught. Turner, 42, and Steen, 50, were professors serving with the U.S.-affiliated college when they were abducted by gunmen posing as Lebanese riot police. "America is directly responsible for shedding the blood of our people and their cause," said the 15-line statement. "We warn America and Israel that future developments will not be in the interest of either of them. They will realize that the blood will not be wasted. They will pay the price," the statement said. The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine took credit for the kidnapping of Turner and Steen and fellow professors American Robert Pothill, who was released April 22, and Indian Mithalshwar Singh, released Oct. 3, 1985.

Tel Aviv discusses second Iraqi letter

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's cabinet of defense and Saturday to discuss a second letter sent by Iraq to Israel's ambassador in Baghdad. The letter, which was received by Israel's ambassador in Baghdad, was a response to a letter sent by Israel's ambassador in Baghdad to Iraq's ambassador in Tel Aviv. The letter was received by Israel's ambassador in Baghdad, who is currently in Tel Aviv. The letter was received by Israel's ambassador in Baghdad, who is currently in Tel Aviv. The letter was received by Israel's ambassador in Baghdad, who is currently in Tel Aviv.

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Seah backs hunger strikers

AMMAN (Petra) — Palestinian National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Seah said a message to a group of Palestinians, currently staging a hunger strike at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Jerusalem. Seah expressed his pride in the group and said this hunger strike, which condemns the Israeli occupation, expresses the will of the Palestinians in the occupied lands and the diaspora for national independence. Seah said in the message that the PNC sent messages to all parliaments and peace-loving nations in the world calling them to express solidarity with the strikers and to demand the just demands and the national rights of the Palestinian people.

PTC head retired

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet met Saturday and decided to pension Public Transport Corporation (PTC) Director General Muhammad Jamil Al-Tayeb as of the beginning of June upon his request. The Cabinet also approved the executive programme for a cultural and scientific cooperation between Jordan and the Soviet Union for the year 1989 and 1991. The programme aims to enhance cooperation between the two countries in cultural, scientific, youth and sports fields. The Cabinet also approved the appointment of several ministers who were elected to their municipal councils.

Thousands flood Moscow shops

MOSCOW (R) — Moscow city authorities, pleading with citizens to stop hoarding food, accused the government Saturday of planning to punish thousands of people who flooded shops in response to the news, Moscow City Council postponed until Monday a two-week ban on food sales to out-of-town residents which it had said would take effect Saturday. "We've lost faith in the government. The only thing we believe in now is God," said a young woman, carrying several large bags stuffed with meat and cheese from fast-moving shops. "The situation in the city is getting critical. There is a real danger of things getting out of control. Hundreds of thousands of people are in the shops."

6 killed in Tokyo blast

TOKYO (R) — Six people died and 22 were injured Saturday when a series of explosions rocked a chemical factory in western Tokyo, police and firemen said. More than 50 fire engines were sent to fight the fire at the plant in the industrial ward of the city, they said. "The fire was brought under control. Five of the injured are in critical condition," a fire department spokesman said. The cause of the explosion was not known, but firemen said it was possible the blast was caused by a chemical used in processing plastics.

Huge pro-apartheid rally in S. Africa

PRETORIA (AP) — Tens of thousands of whites shouted their support for apartheid and white minority rule Saturday at a mass gathering to challenge the government's mandate to share power with the black majority. The so-called "new South Africa" of forced integration which the government is forcing on its gives us no other choice but to defend our rights and our property at all levels of our community," Conservative Party leader Andries Treurnicht told the largest pro-apartheid rally since President F.W. de Klerk came to power last year. The Conservative Party had predicted up to 100,000 whites would attend the rally at the Voortrekker monument, built on a hill overlooking Pretoria to commemorate the pioneering forefathers of the Afrikaners who constitute a majority of South Africa's five million whites.

Arab turning point expected at Baghdad

From Lamis Andoni in Baghdad

AS LEADERS have started to arrive in Baghdad for the emergency summit which begins Monday political analysts believe that the conference will constitute a turning point — albeit not a radical shift — in the Arab World's attitude towards the superpowers. This shift, according to Arab officials, is dictated by the American position towards the Palestinian people's national rights, and most recently towards Iraq, and by the upheavals in Eastern Europe and Moscow's policy towards Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. But, while there is consensus on the general nature of the Arab attitude towards Moscow and even Eastern Europe, the Arab position towards the U.S. has so far proved the most controversial issue of the summit.

Arab officials told the Jordan Times that draft resolutions, which will be submitted by the Arab foreign ministers to the summit, indicate that Arab relationship with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe will from now on "be dictated by mutual interests." In other words, the Arab summit will adapt to the changing attitude of most Eastern European countries, some of which had restored diplomatic relations with Israel, but without taking a hostile stand towards these governments. In past summits, resolutions used to take for granted automatic Soviet and Eastern European support for Arab causes. "But

now the Arab decision-makers realise that they have a lot of hard work to do to secure the support, and even the neutrality of some of their former allies," said a political observer who is very close to meetings. The main focus of the summit, however, is expected to be on means to counter the U.S. support for Israel and Washington's "unwillingness" to recognise the Palestinian people's national rights. In the view of many Arab officials, particularly the Palestinian delegation, any strategy to confront Israel but falling short of countering the U.S. will be "lacking and useless." The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) efforts to make the Arab foreign ministers equate Israeli threats with American threats were confronted with strong opposition from Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The PLO, backed mainly by Iraq, submitted a draft resolution referring to "the Israeli and American threats to the Arab Nation." The draft resolution was challenged by the foreign ministers of Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

According to Arab officials, the foreign ministers drafted a modified version of the resolution, changing the phrases to "Israeli threats backed by the U.S." The compromise draft, however, was rejected by Egypt and Saudi Arabia. They suggested that the resolution should not make any reference to the U.S. by name. Egypt suggested a substitute phrase which referred to "Israeli threats supported by various countries."

In the Egyptian view, according to Arab diplomats, an explicit negative reference to the U.S. "will obstruct the peace process." Political analysts said the differences over the Arab World's attitude towards Washington reflects a substantial difference in the approach towards the peace process itself. For while Egypt appears to believe that Washington holds the key to the peace process, other Arab countries, particularly the PLO and Iraq, are pushing for ending "Washington's monopoly on the peace process." This trend seems to enjoy the support of most Arab governments, at least in basic assumption, and was strengthened by the failure so far of the dialogue between the U.S. and the PLO to achieve substantial results.

Political sources told the Jordan Times that the foreign ministers referred both versions of the draft resolution to the summit. The PLO was able, according to the same sources, to secure draft resolutions giving a bigger role to the United Nations in an attempt "to lessen the American influence and to secure international protection for the Palestinian people" in the occupied territories. The sources said that in three sections — dedicated respectively to the intifada, the status of Jerusalem and Soviet Jewish immigration — that draft resolutions called for the dispatch of United Nations troops and an observer mission to provide protection for the Palestinians and to prevent Israeli plans to settle the occupied territories, and to put an end to the Jewish settlement policies. In the context of the same draft plan to counter Jewish immigration and to "broaden the participation of other countries in peace process," the draft resolutions called for intense contacts with the countries of origin of Jewish immigrants "to explain the negative repercussions on the peace process and Palestinian national rights." An Egyptian effort for the endorsement by the Arab foreign ministers of a resolution incorporating "some elements" of the plan put forward by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker failed. Arab diplomats said that Cairo

King pays tribute to security forces

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday expressed deep pride and appreciation of the role played by security forces in dealing with the recent disturbances that accompanied protests staged in Jordan against last Sunday's massacre of eight Arab workers in the occupied territories. "I am pleased to send to every member of the police force in Jordan my appreciation for their continued efforts and keenness to ensure the safety of the country and its citizens and for the great measure of self-restraint they exercised during the recent events," the King said in a message to the director general of the Public Security Department (PSD), Major-General Fadel Ali Fheid. "You are worthy of the responsibility you are shouldering in the defence of the nation, its citizens and the march of democracy," said the King in his message, which he asked to be conveyed to all PSD officers. "We were deeply shocked by Israel's massacre of Palestinian people who are our brothers and with whom we share their ordeal and stand together in defence of the nation," said the King. "It was natural for the Jordanian citizens to rise in anger and pain against the massacring of brothers in the Israeli-held Arab lands, but the police force in Jordan is to be commended and praised for the role it assumed during the protests in which certain excesses were reported," the King stressed. He said that the police force has acted in a manner that prevented hostile forces from exploiting the protests to do harm to the country, its democratic rule and its citizens, and for this "they deserve praise and appreciation from me personally and from the whole Jordanian family which realises the dimension of the challenges and the looming dangers."



Fadel Ali Fheid

"I hope that you convey to all PSD members, that you capably manage and lead, my appreciation and pride, because they are the vigil eyes that protect and keep security in the Kingdom and its citizens and their safety, because they are our force for our firm stand in our positions."

Crown Prince calls for serious superpower involvement in efforts for Mideast peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has called on the superpowers to take greater responsibility in expediting the Middle East peace process and urged the United States and Europe to make their support of the resettlement on Israel's freezing of all settlement activity in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "The United States and the Soviet Union must assume greater responsibility in expediting the peace process," the Crown Prince wrote in the opinion page of Saturday's New York Times. "Peace proposals must accommodate the political requirements of the Palestinians and the resettlement of Soviet Jews," the article said.

The Crown Prince also said moderate Arabs and Israelis must talk to one another because the real danger to peace is growing religious fundamentalism. The Crown Prince said unless Arabs and Israelis fashioned "their own special glasnost," growing violence and terrorism would lead to a war which neither side would win. "The killing of innocent Palestinians by an Israeli in the occupied territories and the subsequent popular uproar and agitation underscore the need for the Arabs and Israelis to urgently fashion their own special glasnost

another — now." "It will not do any longer for the U.N. Security Council to merely consider and perhaps approve resolutions condemning Israel's hostile actions against Palestinians. It is encouraging that the Security Council is meeting in Geneva in response to a call by the PLO following the massacre of Palestinians in Gaza, the council however must convene an international peace conference to activate a new dialogue on peace in the Middle East, the Crown Prince wrote. The full text of the Crown Prince's article will be published in Monday's issue of the Jordan Times.

— an accommodation that would seriously tackle the festering issues that have haunted the Middle East for generations. The Crown Prince said the real enemy was growing religious fundamentalism, with Jewish extremists on one side and on another "an Islamic cohort that is influential in the politics of Muslim societies from South-East Asia westward through Afghanistan to Lebanon and North Africa." "Islamic extremists are increasingly active in the intifada in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," he wrote. He said the Arabs and Israelis "must be induced to talk to one

Security Council adjourns in Geneva without concrete action

GENEVA (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council failed Saturday to agree to send a delegation to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to investigate the wave of violence there. The council ended a special two-day session, held in Geneva to allow Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to speak, without agreeing on a proposed observer team because of Israel's refusal to allow such a delegation. "Israel still has a stranglehold on the decision-making process," Arab League Ambassador Clovis Makoud told a news conference after the adjournment of the meeting, set to resume in New York Tuesday. However, Israel faced heightened pressure for its tough handling of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. The U.S. State Department

earlier said it was ready to discuss having the Security Council send a temporary fact-finding mission to the occupied territories. That put Washington publicly at odds with Israel, which said it would bar any observer team. U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering suggested Saturday a likely move would be dispatching a personal representative of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez De Cuellar to report back on the situation in the occupied territories. This has been done before. "The direction in which we're looking is something that might come from the secretary-general in that regard," Pickering told reporters after the meeting. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker raised the possibility Friday when he said Washington

31 killed in Sudan earthquake

KHARTOUM (AP) — Last weekend's major earthquake in southern Sudan and a continuing swarm of very strong aftershocks has left 31 killed and 300,000 people without shelter, government official and rebel officials said Saturday. Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association liaison officers in Nairobi, Kenya, said 30 people were killed at Koon-Wei near the city of Bor where many homes slid into the River Nile. James Ndaka said another person was killed and two buildings collapsed in the village of Lufan near Torit. He said many cattle, sheep and goats were also killed by landslide and rolling stones. Bor is 1000 kilometres north of Khartoum and Torit is 1200 kilometres north of Khartoum. Ndaka said nine persons were injured and a mosque was destroyed at Iyot, a small town near the border with Uganda. Brigadier Dominique Kasiano, a member of Sudan's ruling junta and political supervisor of the southern Equatoria region, said that every government building in a government garrison town north of southern Sudan's main city, Juba, has been destroyed.

'Constitution basis for charter'

By Caroline Faraj Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Ahmad Obaidat, chairman of the General Commission drafting the Kingdom's national charter said Saturday the constitution would remain the basis for the charter. During a session of the commission, Obaidat also laid down five other points that summed up his position on the deliberations of the commission. He said that Jordan's democratic march must be safeguarded and the country's internal front must be fortified. He added that political pluralism, as mentioned by His Majesty King Hussein in his letter for the commission, was the only guarantee for national unity. He said: "Political pluralism is the point of conversion between the regime and the factions of the people within the confines of legitimacy and the constitution."

The former prime minister called for intensified dialogue within the commission and the country at large based on the constitution and the "respect of the other opinion." Obaidat said that building the modern Jordanian state requires the modernisation of certain concepts, means and policies in a manner that would fulfil the aspirations of the Jordanian people. "The process of reform that we aspire for requires the enactment of a genuine process of development that would reflect on the policies, decisions and attitudes that would lead to the institutionalisation of the national democratic process," he said. He added that the concept of democracy, among others, needs to be clarified and reinforced through politics, culture, development and education. "Political education in its national, ethical and practical dimensions is

increasingly becoming important day after day. The commission, Obaidat said, has now moved into the next stage of its task. In a statement to the press, Obaidat said the commission has agreed on the general frameworks of the charter. They include a preamble, the philosophy of the charter, Jordan's political history, present and future outlooks. They also include political activity, political parties, pluralism, basic rights and public freedoms. The general framework also covers the economy, social life, culture and education, Obaidat said. The Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is in a separate chapter, he said. The fourth dimension of the charter, Obaidat said, was the Arab, Islamic and international dimension of Jordan's relationship.

Uprising leaders urge attacks on Israeli troops

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The underground leadership of the Palestinian uprising called in a leaflet Saturday for activists to inflict heavy casualties on Israeli soldiers. At the same time, the army command ordered high schools and colleges remain closed for the second week as a result of the protests following the massacre of eight Palestinian workers in a Tel Aviv suburb Sunday. The army command said they would reopen only the elementary schools in the West Bank at this point, excluding those in the cities of Hebron and Nablus. Israeli authorities had just begun reopening colleges March 1990 and 13 were already in session when the military banned the doors shut again. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had also

intended to start a gradual opening of the universities before Sunday's violence. Israel closed all Palestinian institutes of higher education in February 1988 arguing they were hotbeds of anti-Israeli violence. Six Palestinian universities, 14 colleges and five training schools were shut. The leaflet, coming in response to Sunday's violence, also called "for an international presence of neutral forces from the U.N. to provide protection for the Palestinian people from the aggressive Israeli army." Shamir said that he would turn away any type of U.N. delegation claiming that such a presence would only create problems. "A force of this type can only damage and be a cause for unnecessary tensions. It doesn't

Aoun and Geagea agree to permanent truce — envoy

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rival Christian forces, heading an appeal by Pope John Paul, have agreed to a permanent ceasefire in their war which has killed more than 1,000 people since January, the papal nuncio to Lebanon said Saturday. Monsignor Pablo Puente told a news conference renegade General Michel Aoun and militia leader Samir Geagea had agreed to consolidate their current truce into a permanent ceasefire and halt all troop movements. They had also accepted his proposals to release all prisoners of war, to end hostile propaganda campaigns and consider reopening schools. The Pope urged the country's battling Christians to lay down their arms and seek dialogue in a videotaped address played at a meeting of Christian religious figures Friday. The pontiff said: "The battles, ongoing for months in the Christian enclave, are the cause of great pain to me." Puente said the Pope's message had paved the way for stabilising a church-mediated truce agreed on May 16 after pressure from Iraq. But despite Puente's optimistic declaration, police said Aoun's troops and Geagea's Lebanese forces militiamen exchanged intermittent sniper fire in east Beirut, killing three people and wounding one. That raised the casualty toll to 1,035 killed and 2,770 wounded since the power struggle broke out Jan. 30. Independent observers doubted that the power struggle will end until Aoun and Geagea can work out a political settlement and overcome their deep-seated hatred of each other. Before agreeing to the ceasefire, May 16, Aoun's 19,000 troops and the 6,000-hardcore fighters of Geagea's militia, backed by some 30,000 reservists, fought each other to a standstill in their war for control of the Christian enclave north of Beirut. The inconclusive power struggle forced about 400,000 of the enclave's one million population to seek refuge in safer areas and large areas of the Christian enclave in ruins.

There was no immediate comment from either Geagea or Aoun on Puente's remarks. In Lebanon's other factional power struggle, Syrian troops intervened early Saturday to halt 15 hours of street fighting in west and south Beirut between rival Shiite Muslim factions in which five people were killed and 42 wounded. But Puente said the situation remained "very tense" as the main Shiite Syrian-backed Amal movement and the fundamentalist Palestinian Hizbollah, (Party of God) kept their fighters on "maximum alert."

A police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing regulations, said civilians were fleeing the densely-populated districts, fearing renewed fighting. Beirut's independent Al Nahar daily warned of a "big explosion" if "categoric measures are not taken quickly" to defuse the explosive situation. Amal and Hizbollah have been battling on and off for 2 1/2 years for dominance of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shiites.

Democracy reaching nomads, tribesmen of Algerian plains

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

AL BAYADH, Algeria — The ripples of democratic change have reached Algeria's grassy heartland, where nomadic shepherds and tribesmen are getting their first taste of multi-party politics.

As in Algiers, where President Chadli Benjedid launched a multi-party democracy last year, Islamic fundamentalists, Social Democrats and independents are vying in local and provincial elections to unseat the National Liberation Front (FLN) after 27 years of one-party rule.

"The stone was thrown in the water in Algiers, and the ripples are reaching us," said Bachir Bekkara of the town council. "There is a big debate going on."

But in this provincial capital 400 kilometres from the Mediterranean Sea, where Thursday's sheep market is still the economic heartbeat, tribe and family ties often run deeper than politics.

The FLN exerts a strong pull on a highly conservative population that reveres it for leading freedom fighters in

dependence from France in 1962.

"But tribal issues are very much alive and they are bound to erupt around election time," said a local FLN official.

Grassy plains, dotted with grazing horses, sheep and goats, surround Al Bayadh at the edge of the Algerian steppe 1,000 metres above sea level.

On the horizon, the rugged Saharan Atlas Mountains mark the northern boundary of the Sahara Desert and even greater sandy emptiness beyond.

Herdsmen suffer freezing cold in winter and shimmering heat in summer.

Turbaned men walk the dusty streets wrapped in wool burnouses, or hooded cloaks. Women stare from behind white veils.

The French founded Al Bayadh in 1852 as a fort to combat resistance to their advancing armies. It remains a garrison town, with municipal gardens, neo-classical squares and tree-lined boulevards recalling colonial days.

Drought — tragically relieved this month by torrential rains that killed 16 people — has decimated livestock and pushed the economy into a slump with high unemployment.

ment.

Men greet each other in traditional bedouin fashion by bending down to kiss each other's shoulder. In a city of 49,000, social ties bind even political adversaries.

Rival candidates for June 12 municipal and provincial elections, the first multi-party poll in 30 years, kiss warmly on the steps of the office of the Wali (provincial governor) — fundamentalists sporting beards, FLN activists moustaches.

"Some of my closest friends are in the FLN," said a town council candidate for the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the ruling party's biggest rival.

But officials say tribal tensions beneath the small town Camaraderie could make the campaign, which began officially Monday, a hot one.

FIS and FLN supporters have already clashed in the nearby village of Al Ghassoul, leaving an FIS supporter gravely wounded in hospital.

The former FLN mayor and 19 others were sentenced to fines and jail terms for gathering without authorisation and inciting violence.

The April 20 row broke out when FLN supporters — without authorisation — sought to

organise an anti-fundamentalist rally at the same time that FIS activists from Al Bayadh had permission to conduct a public lecture.

A senior official said political rivalry was only the spark that ignited longstanding tension between the dominant Ouled Mou'min clan and tribal minorities in Al Ghassoul.

"People here don't always understand the new climate. They don't always play by the rules," he said.

The local FLN, led by young men of the party's reformist wing, thinks it can capitalise on patriotic feeling and traditional loyalty.

"There is optimism that the FLN or independents will be assured of victory," said an FLN official. He said 90 per cent of the independents were former FLN activists unable to get on their lists.

A local FIS office headed by 37-year-old Abdal Qader Bouzad, preacher at Al Nur Mosque, opened last month. It has made inroads among disaffected youth as elsewhere in Algeria and professes equal optimism.

"We are the up and coming party. The FLN is the party on



the decline," the FIS official said.

But the fundamentalists have a formidable handicap in opposing the widespread adoration of Marabouts, local holy men to whom residents

sometimes attribute saintly powers. FIS positions have ruffled traditional religious sentiment, opponents say.

"People don't like to be told how to pray," the FLN official said.

Lawyer says Israeli inmate tried to kill Hamadi in Frankfurt jail

FRANKFURT (AP) — An attorney for convicted TWA hijacker Mohammed Ali Hamadi said Friday that another inmate recently tried to kill his client in prison.

Lawyer Hans-Burkhardt Steck also said his office has filed charges against the inmate, whom he identified as "an Israeli named Masbia."

"He tried to stab Hamadi in the neck with a knife. It was just luck that Hamadi reacted quickly and suffered only a cut on his arm," the Frankfurt-based lawyer said.

Hamadi, a Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim, is serving a life sentence for the murder of a U.S. sailor during the 1985 TWA hijacking.

The lawyer said Masbia's first name was Youssef, that he had been recently jailed on a conviction for illegal drug deals and had been kept in the same prison area as Hamadi.

"He (Masbia) is an Israeli citizen, and had bothered Hamadi before, but prison officials didn't do anything to put him in a separate area," Steck said.

Hamadi is believed to be a member of Hizbollah, or Party of

God, in Beirut, a radical group Western officials say is responsible for numerous kidnappings in Lebanon. The group is reportedly holding U.S. hostages and Israeli prisoners.

Asked if he believed the attack on Hamadi may have been directed from outside the prison, Steck said: "I don't want to make such an assumption."

Steck said the incident occurred on May 5 as the inmates at Frankfurt's Preungesheim prison were left out of their cells for a "free period" within the jail confines.

Although Hamadi did not require stitches, a 15-centimetre laceration on his arm had to be bandaged, Steck said.

"We have filed attempted murder charges against the attacker," Steck said.

Steck told the Associated Press that Frankfurt justice officials described the incident as a normal altercation that sometimes occurs among prison inmates.

A spokesman for Frankfurt prosecutor's office, Jochem Schroers, said he could not pro-

vide any immediate information on the attack or whether charges had been filed in the case.

Hamadi was tried in Frankfurt and confessed to hijacking TWA Flight 847 from Athens to Rome on June 14, 1985 and diverting it to Beirut. He was also convicted of murder in the shooting death of U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem, who was killed by the hijackers.

Stethem, 23, of Waldorf, Maryland, was the only casualty during the hijacking, in which 39 Americans were held hostage for 17 days.

Hamadi's older brother Abbas Hamadi, who was convicted in 1988 of kidnapping two West German businessmen in Beirut in an attempt to force his brother's release, is serving a 13-year prison sentence in a Düsseldorf prison.

Mohammad Hamadi, who lived in West Germany, was arrested at Frankfurt airport on Jan. 13, 1987 when customs officials discovered liquid explosives in his luggage on a return trip from Lebanon.

Cyprus denies island is transit for Soviet Jews

NICOSIA (AP) — The government issued statistics Saturday which it said proved that the East Mediterranean island is not being used as a transit point for large-scale Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel.

Government spokesman Akis Fantis, seeking to rebut Arab allegations that Cyprus is a staging post for Soviet Jews, said that in the first four months of this year 1,770 Soviet citizens flew from Moscow to Cyprus to catch flights to Israel.

He said in a statement that in the same period, 2,113 Soviet Jews flew from Israel to Moscow via Cyprus.

The government has repeatedly denied that Cyprus, which has frequently been the target of attacks, was being used to funnel Soviet Jews to Israel.

"These figures prove that Cyprus is used mainly as a stopover for the growing tourist traffic to Israel as a result of the relaxation of Soviet regulations governing trips abroad," Fantis said.

The survey was carried out after Arab ambassadors in Nicosia, the capital, protested the movement of Soviet citizens to Israel through the island.

The Arabs fear that hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews will emigrate to Israel in the next few years following Moscow's relaxation of travel restrictions.

The Arabs' main concern is that many of the Soviet Jews will be settled in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, roughly the area proclaimed an independent Palestinian state in 1988.

The Israeli cabinet approved an emergency plan on May 14 to spend \$1.2 billion to absorb 150,000 Soviet Jews expected to arrive in fiscal 1990.

Israeli officials have said that as many as 750,000 Soviet Jews may eventually immigrate to Israel in the next few years.

Fantis said that the percentage of Soviet Jews travelling to and from Israel through Cyprus was "very small" compared to the tens of thousands of Soviet Jews who go to Israel.

Arab leaders start arriving in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Arab leaders started arriving here on Saturday for an extraordinary Arab summit slated to open May 28.

The first to arrive were Sudanese military leader Omar Ahmad Hassan El Bashir and the Presidents of Mauritania, Somalia and Djibouti; Maawiya Ould Sidi Ahmad Al Tayeh, Mohammad Sidi Barre and Hassan Gouled.

The leaders were received at the airport by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his top aides in the government and the ruling Baath Party.

Officials said most Arab heads of state are expected Sunday, a day before the opening of the summit called to discuss emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and other threats to Arab security.

Eighteen Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are taking part in the summit which is boycotted by Syria and Lebanon.

North and South Yemen, after their official merger May 26, are attending as one delegation.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, on his way to the sum-

mit, stopped over in Damascus Saturday in an attempt to persuade Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to attend.

But Assad had already rebuffed earlier efforts and he remained adamantly opposed to participation in a gathering hosted by Saddam Hussein.

Lebanon's Syrian-backed government followed Assad's lead. Algerian President Chadli Benjedid will not attend the summit, the Algerian news agency APS said Saturday.

It said the Algerian delegation would be headed by Rabah Bitat, president of the National Assembly.

A brief APS announcement gave no explanation but Algerian officials have repeatedly said a summit without Syria makes no sense.

Arab diplomatic sources here said several diplomatic attempts are under way to convince Assad to attend or to send another top Syrian official to participate in the two-day gathering and avoid a clear display of Arab disunity.

A prominent banner in a Baghdad street, hung for the summit, reads, "Unity is our strength. Divisiveness is our weakness."

PFLP claims attack on Israeli surrogates

RASHAYA (AP) — Palestinian guerrillas ambushed a convoy of Israeli-backed militiamen in South Lebanon Saturday inflicting an undisclosed number of casualties and losing four of their men, Lebanese security sources reported.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said in a series of communiqués issued in Beirut that its fighters carried out the attack to avenge the massacre of eight Palestinian workers by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv last Sunday.

The Lebanese sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a guerrilla force detonated three remote-control bombs on a road inside Israel's self-designated "security zone" north of the border with the Jewish state as the South Lebanon Army

(SLA) convoy passed.

But an Israeli army spokesman in Tel Aviv said there were no SLA casualties, but reported that the militiamen killed four guerrillas. He made no mention of bombs.

The Israeli version indicated that a patrol of the SLA intercepted an infiltration attempt rather than the militiamen were ambushed.

The PFLP said in one communiqué: "The heroic operation was our response to the massacre committed by the Zionist enemy against the workers of Palestine."

The group acknowledged that it lost four "martyrs in the daring operation."

It said the raiders "detonated remote-controlled bombs beside an enemy convoy, inflicting a number of casualties."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Egypt, Finland discuss Jewish immigration

CAIRO (R) — Egypt stressed its opposition to Soviet Jewish immigration to Israeli-occupied areas in talks Saturday with visiting Finnish Foreign Minister Pertti Paasio. Finland this month agreed to act as a transit point for Soviet Jewish migrants but President Mauno Koivisto said the decision would be reconsidered if they settled in the occupied Arab territories. "The Finnish government is aware... that we are strongly against immigration to occupied Arab territories because it would be at the expense of the rights of the Palestinian people," Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid told reporters after meeting Paasio. The Finnish minister, on a four-day visit, made no reference to immigration in remarks to reporters. "We are disturbed about the situation in the Middle East. Finland is ready to make every effort to support the peace process, and especially stresses the importance of a dialogue between Palestinians, Israelis and all parties to the dispute," he said. On Tuesday, President Hosni Mubarak said the flood of Soviet Jews could push the Middle East to the brink of war.

Arafat says Swiss hostages alive

GENEVA (R) — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has told the Swiss government that two Red Cross hostages in Lebanon are still alive and he will do all he can to get them freed, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday. Arafat met a foreign ministry official Friday evening, during a special U.N. Security Council session in Geneva, and told him that he was willing to do all he could to speed the release of Elio Erriquez and Emanuel Christen, both Swiss. A ministry spokeswoman in Bern told Reuters that Arafat did not provide details of who was holding the two orthopaedic workers or what the demands were. The men, on the staff of the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross, were seized on Oct. 6 in the port city of Sidon. Palestinian sources have linked the abduction to the imprisonment in Switzerland of Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim hijacker Hussein Mohammad Hariri.

Palestinians fast in protest against Israel

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Fifty Palestinians were fasting Saturday at the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office here in solidarity with Arabs on a hunger strike in the Israeli-occupied territories. Acting PLO representative Ibrahim Tamin said 30,000 Palestinian inmates in Israeli jails have been on a hunger strike for the past week to protest renewed violence in the territories. Israeli troops and Jewish settlers have killed 16 Palestinians and wounded more than 800 others since May 20 in clashes which came after seven unarmed Palestinian workers were killed by an Israeli. The staff of the PLO office and their families, along with 20 Palestinian university students, gathered at the office in an affluent residential area of Ankara. The PLO opened an office with diplomatic status here in 1979. Turkey is the only NATO country which has recognised an independent Palestinian state. Turkey is also the only country besides Egypt in the Islamic Bloc to have diplomatic relations with Israel.

Oman investigates oil slick

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — An oil tanker was halted and its captain put under ship arrest Saturday as police and pollution control officials investigated the cause of a 6-kilometre slick off Oman, shipping executives reported. The 800-metre slick was spotted in the Gulf of Oman off the coast at Mina Al Fahal, 17 kilometres northwest of the capital, Muscat. The vessel was identified as the Gibraltar-registered Husco Vallya, said the shipping industry sources, who spoke on condition they were not named. Officials did not identify the tanker captain or give his nationality. But the sources said police had confiscated the tanker's registration certificate. A civilian aircraft first spotted the spill. Police coast guard units joined pollution control officers to contain the slick and question crewmen.

Somali president in Yemen

SANAA (R) — Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre arrived in the new Yemeni republic on the first visit by a foreign leader since the country's creation Tuesday. Sanaa Radio said Siad Barre congratulated President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the unification of North and South Yemen after his arrival Friday night. The merger "will... strengthen security and stability in the region," said Barre, whose country lies across the Gulf of Aden from Yemen. The leaders discussed bilateral ties and regional developments, the radio said.

Tunisia convicts child killer

TUNIS (AP) — A court has convicted a man of molesting and killing 12 children in four years and sentenced him to death by hanging, judicial officials have said. The man, identified as Naceur Ben Allala Damergi, 45, was arrested in December following the unprecedented series of child killings in this North African nation. The nine boys and three girls were between 9 and 13 years old. During the trial, which ended Thursday evening, Damergi's lawyers, citing the "abject" nature of the crimes, asked that their client undergo psychological tests. Damergi was arrested after a long search and admitted the crimes. He reconstructed them with "precision," showing investigators where the victims' bodies were hidden — mainly in pastures and unused wells, according to testimony. Called to testify, shaken parents of the victims were unable to contain themselves, with many of them demanding the murderer be hanged in a public square. No death sentence has been carried out in Tunisia for two years.

S. Arabia gives \$30m to intifada

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia gave the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) \$30.1 million Saturday to support the 29-month-old uprising in the occupied territories. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said the cheque was handed to the Palestinian charge d'affaires in Riyadh, Mohammad Farajallah Isa, covering the kingdom's dues for the first five months of 1990. Under the final resolution of the Algiers Arab summit in 1988, Saudi Arabia pays \$6 million a month to help finance the uprising.

Baghdad makes comeback as major summit venue after war years

BAGHDAD (R) — Baghdad, billing itself as "the city of victory and peace", is basking in its return to diplomatic centre stage after eight years of the Gulf war.

Arab kings and presidents begin an emergency meeting Monday in the Iraqi capital, shunned as a venue for major summits since 1980 because of the Iran-Iraq conflict.

They will meet in a lavish conference centre built at great expense for a Non-Aligned summit which should have taken place there in 1982.

The meeting moved to India because Iran and Syria, Tehran's Arab ally, objected to the venue. Many other countries felt that Baghdad, 120 kilometres from the Iranian border, was not safe for so many heads of state in wartime.

During the war the city, stretches for 70 kilometres along both banks of the Tigris, suffered

frequent Iranian rocket attacks. Fighting ended with a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire in August 1988. Iraq hailed it as a victory, although peace talks remain deadlocked.

But Baghdad, once capital of an Arab empire stretching from Algeria to the steppes of Central Asia, has settled back to more peaceful ways.

It played host in February 1989 to the founding summit of the Arab Cooperation Council, an alliance set up by Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen.

More than four decades of oil revenue have transformed Baghdad from a compact town of less than a million, just emerging from the shadow of the Ottoman Empire, into a sprawling metropolis of 4.5 million, crisscrossed by six-lane expressways.

Its five-star hotels, completed for the 1982 summit, can more than accommodate next

week's guests and their retinues. Baghdad has also become more cosmopolitan — immigrant manual workers from Egypt and Sudan rub shoulders with Palestinian professionals and European businessmen.

Two decades of socialism have studied the city with massive examples of Socialist realist art — a Martyr's Memorial, a Shrine to the Unknown Soldier and a Monument of Liberation.

The latest addition is a victory arch formed by crossed swords. The fists which hold the hilts are modelled on those of President Saddam Hussein, 40 times life-size. Even the fingerprints are carefully copied.

Billboard portraits of Hussein are standard at most large junctions. They show him in a variety of costume, from military fatigues and business suits to beards and panama hats. More posters have gone up to mark the summit.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Korana
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programme
15:50	Football
15:55	News summary in Arabic
16:00	Local programme
16:05	Cultural programme
16:10	Local programme
16:15	Programme review
16:20	News in Arabic
16:25	Arabic series
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Premier expects stronger economy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian economy is expected to regain its vigour and strength within the coming two years thanks to the implementation of a national programme designed to boost the Kingdom's exports and reduce imports, Prime Minister Badran said here Saturday.

"The programme is part of a set of government economic and financial measures designed to stimulate the national economy," the prime minister said in a statement during his meeting with a United Nations fact finding mission which is now on a tour of the Arab region.

Jordan is in the process of building up its foreign currency reserves which are being increased continuously in a manner that would ensure the success of the economic restructuring programme," Badran was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

According to the Central Bank Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi, earlier this month, the Kingdom's present foreign currency reserves now stand at \$490 million, including an amount of

\$20 million received on May 9 from the United Arab Emirates.

Nabulsi projects the country's confidence of increasing the reserves by \$150 million by the end of 1990.

In reviewing the causes behind Jordan's economic crisis, the prime minister blamed the failure of Arab countries to honour their financial commitments to Jordan and the world economic recession which caused a decline in oil prices.

"Towards the end of 1989 Jordan reached an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a comprehensive economic restructuring programme and the Kingdom reached a deal with foreign creditors on rescheduling Jordan's debts," the prime minister added. He said that these two steps were bound to help the country regain its economic stability.

Badran described as excellent the Kingdom's relations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation is characterised by mutual confidence, clarity and joint action to serve the Jordanian and Palestinian people, as well as the Palestinian cause which is the Arab World's main concern," Badran pointed out.

In referring to the situation inside the Israeli-held Arab territories, the prime minister said that the Palestinian people there were in dire need of help, materially and morally, since their economic conditions were extremely bad.

"Israel's atrocities and inhuman practices, which are committed daily in occupied Palestine, are further aggravating the situation," the prime minister said.

"Despite the concessions offered by the Palestine Liberation Organisation for the sake of achieving peace, Israel is displaying its obstinance and total insensibility," the prime minister said.

With reference to the upcoming Arab summit meeting in Baghdad, Badran said he was confident the meeting would achieve the aspirations and hopes attached to it and would serve as a turning point in the history of the Arab Nation.

The 15-member fact finding mission, which is led by Mahmoud Sa'ed, groups prominent journalists from the United States, Sweden, Japan, New Zealand, Ireland, The Netherlands, West Germany, Canada, Belgium, Australia and Yugoslavia.

The mission members, who are scheduled to leave for Cairo Sunday had a meeting Saturday with the speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC) Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh.

Developments in the Palestinian issue and the ordeal of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule were reviewed at the meeting which was attended by PNC members.

Sayeh spoke about Soviet Jewish immigration into Palestine, the United States total bias towards Israel, Israel's violations of Palestinian people's human rights and the massacring of Palestinian civilians.

Sheikh Sayeh appealed to the United Nations to provide real protection to the Palestinian people and end Israel's occupation of Arab land.

Labour, Jordanian universities and the RSS had a day-long review of the working papers which focused attention on the demographic, economic and social life in Jordan and the Arab World, fields of employment and future prospects in the Arab region.

"Matters related to vocational training, prospects for the labour market and social and economic prospects for employment abroad are also included in the papers," Qasem said.

He said that the papers can be useful to policy makers and planners. Qasem noted that the meeting was the first by the ILO with the RSS and he announced that the two sides decided that further meetings would be held in the future to discuss matters related to labour.

Jordan, Lebanon to step up cooperation in agriculture

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is interested in buying Lebanese agricultural products and fruits, especially apricots which are in great demand in the local markets, and will discuss exchanges of Lebanese-Jordanian agricultural products with the hope of concluding a long-term agreement in this respect, Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat said Saturday.

Jordan is expected to purchase a large quantity of apricots this year from Lebanon which is expected to produce 25,000 tonnes of the crop, the minister said at a meeting with the chairman of the Lebanese Farmers Association and the accompanying delegation.

Arabiyat last week said that climatic conditions prevailing in Jordan over the past two months, certain diseases and viruses which affected the crops and other technical matters were to blame for the lack of sufficient fruits and vegetables in the local markets and the soaring prices of the little amounts sold here.

He said lack of sufficient amounts of water supplies were also partly responsible for the insufficient quantities of produce. He also blamed certain past policies, which he did not name, as responsible for Jordan's loss of Arab and foreign markets.

The head of the Lebanese team said that Lebanon wished to increase exchanges of agricultural products with Jordan. The delegation handed the minister a message from his Lebanese counterpart on promoting the exchange of agricultural products.

According to an official from the Ministry of Agriculture, Jordan exported 50,000 tonnes of agricultural products to Lebanon in the last nine months.

The marketing of Jordanian products abroad is done through the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) whose director general was present.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday inspects a Mercedes-Benz car during the inauguration of Tewfik Gargour's new sales and service centre for Mercedes-Benz cars (Petra photo).

Major auto servicing centre opened

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday inaugurated the new Mercedes-Benz sales and service centre at Sahab near Amman.

Present at the opening ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Prince Raad Ben Zeid and a large audience of invited guests.

At the opening ceremony, Tewfik Gargour and Fils, the Jordanian firm and general agents for Mercedes-Benz which set up the centre, announced that it was contemplating the establishment of a plant for assembling Mercedes-Benz minibuses in Jordan. The project is bound to open up new job opportunities for large numbers of workers in Jordan, according to the company official who made the announcement.

The centre, located in the Al Raqqim area in Sahab district, provides sales and services which include training for trainees from vocational centres in Jordan.

According to a company spokesman, the centre is also planning to help the trained students to acquire employment in Jordan and abroad after completing their courses here. He said the centre would provide maintenance services to thousands of small cars and lorries in Jordan or those passing in transit to various Arab countries.

According to Nadim Gargour, the centre was constructed on a 24,000 square metre plot of land and contains the following sections: administration, sales and exhibitions area of 2,800 square metres, spare parts area, service section of 4,800 square metres that can accommodate 60 cars and 16 medium to heavy commercial vehicles at any one time, body and paint section, fully equipped restaurant with an area

Radio Jordan started short wave Arabic broadcasting to the world

AMMAN (J.T.) — Radio Jordan Arabic service has started transmitting Arabic programmes on short waves to the five continents featuring news about Jordan, programmes on tourist sites in the Kingdom, areas for investment along with music and national songs, according to a Radio Jordan official.

Muwaqqaf Al Rahafif, director of the department in charge of short wave services told the Jordan Times that altogether five hours of short wave programmes were broadcast to Australia, Latin America, U.S., Canada, the Gulf region, the Far East, North Africa, Central America and Western Europe.

He said that achievements in Jordan, cultural programmes and teaching of Arabic to foreigners were transmitted daily between 11 a.m. and half past one in the morning (local time).

Starting with 11 a.m. the transmission is broadcast to Australia and the Far East, from 12 noon to Argentina, Chile, Brazil, from one in the afternoon to the United States and Canada, from 11:30 p.m. to the Gulf region, Australia and the Far East, and from 01:30 after midnight to North Africa and Central America. Each transmission lasts one hour, Rahafif said.

He said that prominent events in Jordan and the Arab World and general outlines in local papers and magazines are included in the programmes.

Radio Jordan English services has been transmitting to the five continents on short waves from 2 p.m. to 7:30 daily since the middle of 1989 when the new transmitting station at Kharranch was formally opened.

Labour, Jordanian universities and the RSS had a day-long review of the working papers which focused attention on the demographic, economic and social life in Jordan and the Arab World, fields of employment and future prospects in the Arab region.

"Matters related to vocational training, prospects for the labour market and social and economic prospects for employment abroad are also included in the papers," Qasem said.

He said that the papers can be useful to policy makers and planners. Qasem noted that the meeting was the first by the ILO with the RSS and he announced that the two sides decided that further meetings would be held in the future to discuss matters related to labour.

Labour market reviewed in meeting with ILO official

AMMAN (J.T.) — An official from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and several ministries and Jordanian organisations had a meeting at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Saturday where they conducted a final review of working papers dealing with the labour market in Jordan, unemployment and other related matters.

Director of the RSS Economic Research Centre Dr. Ahmad El Qasem told the Jordan Times that the meeting reviewed eight working papers and gave the go ahead for their publication in a book that would be out for distribution in two months' time at the latest.

The ILO coordinator in labour and population matters for Middle East Mediterranean countries, along with delegates from the ministries of planning and

Canada helps Jordan boost telecommunications services

RAMTHA (J.T.) — The University of Ottawa in Canada has decided to help Jordan carry out a project designed to promote telecommunications services within the Kingdom and with neighbouring Arab states.

The announcement was made by Dr. Ahmad Abul Heija, dean of the faculty of engineering at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) at a seminar that opened here Saturday.

"The project entails setting up an advanced training and research centre in telecommunications which would provide training to technicians from Jordan and Arab states in cooperation with specialists from Ottawa University," Abul Heija said in an address at the opening ceremony at JUST.

He said that the centre, expected to cost \$1 million, would be a gift to Jordan from Canada.

Jordanian products on display in Tunis

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan is displaying samples of new industrial products at the fifth Jordanian industrial fair which is currently being held in the Tunisian capital in which 120 factories and industrial firms are participating, according to the Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC).

The new national products include computers, air conditioning and refrigerating equipment, JCCC spokesman Ghazi Diab said.

Jordanian electrical, plastic and engineering products along with leather, medicines, chemical and supply goods, textile products and carpets are among the various products on display at the 10-day fair which was opened here Friday, Diab said.

"The fair has been organised in implementation of a Tunisian-Jordanian trade agreement which provides for Jordan and Tunisia to hold industrial fairs in each other's capital to promote the sale of their national goods," Diab said.

He said the joint Jordanian-Tunisian trade committee which held a meeting in Amman recently had decided that each country can sell up to \$2.5 million worth of national products at industrial fairs.

Tunisia held its last trade fair in Amman last month.

Upon opening the fair here, Tunisia Minister of Economy and Finance Mohammad Al Ganoush paid tribute to the high quality goods on display and said that Tunisian and Jordanian industrial fairs were helping promote economic and trade ties between the two countries.

Ganoush toured the fair and inspected various items on display.

The fair in Tunis, the fifth to be held there since 1986, was part of celebrations of the Kingdom's 44th independence anniversary.

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Writer found guilty of 'apostasy'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A Jordanian journalist and writer has been found guilty of apostasy and ordered separated from his wife and banned from writing and publishing anything as well as translating and interpreting the Holy Quran.

Nasour Shari'a Court Judge Ihsan Oureiqat, who made the ruling Saturday against Ibrahim Abu Naab, a former columnist at the Al Ra'i newspaper, did not set a deadline for the implementation of the court order pending an appeal.

Abu Naab, 59, who was found guilty of being a member of the outlawed Qadliani sect on the basis of a paper he signed and two poems he wrote while attending a world conference of Qadlians in Telford, Britain, in 1987, said he would appeal the verdict at the State Appeals Court. Abu Naab is arguing that the paper he signed was only aimed at gaining entry to the Telford conference and it did not say that he owed allegiance to the Qadliani sect, a mystical group whose founder questioned all held beliefs and faiths by declaring himself to represent the Prophet Muhammad, Jesus Christ and Hindu Lord Krishna in 1899.

If implemented, the court ruling will result in separating Abu Naab from his wife and seven children since the 36-year-old marriage would be considered null and void under Islamic law, and the journalist would be banned from publishing any writings and from continuing a translation/interpretation of the Holy Quran, according to Judge Oureiqat.

Under the prescribed punishment under Islamic law, the assets of an "apostate" could also be confiscated and immediately extended to anyone who sheds the blood of an "apostate". The proceedings could be reversed if an "apostate" repents in public but will have to "renounce" the spouse if he or she wishes to be reunited with the family.

According to a civil lawyer, who preferred anonymity, however, "the Jordanian civil law is very clear. Anyone who launches an attack against another person, verbally, written or otherwise, can be sued for slander, libel or other relevant charges."

Abu Naab, who told the court in a written explanation last week that he attended the Telford conference solely in his capacity as a journalist, said that he is the victim of a "conspiracy" by the Qadliani, "who turned against me after I wrote a book criticising them."

Abu Naab was referring to an Arabic-language book he wrote in 1988 entitled "The Qadliani Explosion from Within." Excerpts from the book were published in Gulf newspapers.

In his explanation to the court, Abu Naab also pointed out that he had not fulfilled one of the prerequisites to join the Qadliani — a

pledge to pay 16 per cent of his monthly income to the sect. According to experts, the Qadliani sect, which operates out of London with the grandson of their founder Mirza Gulam Ahmad as "emir," yields considerable financial clout, mostly derived from its members. In addition to the 16 per cent contribution of monthly income, every Qadliani is also required to bequeath 10 per cent of his or her estate to the sect.

Contacted by the Jordan Times, Mrs. Abu Naab, 54, told the Jordan Times: "We both are real, faithful Muslims and firm believers and have brought up our children under Islamic teachings. I do not believe in the charges against my husband."

"Islam is a religion of peace and understanding and it does not allow for any separation between two people who love each other," she added.

Nasir, Abu Naab's 30-year-old son, who was jailed for one night for "contempt of court" by Judge Oureiqat during one of the hearings of the case, said he felt that the case had "more to do with freedom of the press than with anything else."

"I feel that the facts of the case should be studied more closely," he said.

In an earlier case, Judge Oureiqat found that another Jordanian, Tahir Kazaz, "was the leader of the Qadliani sect in Jordan." Kazaz was also pronounced an "apostate" but proceedings against him were repeated after he recanted, according to the judge.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by five Jordanian artists at Abdul Hameed Shehman Foundation (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- Exhibition of paintings by Ramda Bervett at Goethe Institute.
- Exhibition displaying traditional Syrian handicraft by Syrian women, and hand-printed textile by Mustafa Fathi at the French Cultural Centre.

FILM

- Turkish film on Islamic art at Alia Art Gallery — 6:30 p.m.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171-4

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Jordan Times

An Independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Support begins at home

THE IDEAS introduced by the PLO before the U.N. Security Council Friday which aim to have a stronger U.N. presence in the occupied Arab territories are worthy of serious consideration and support. The international community, especially the Arab World, was temporarily encouraged by the initial U.S. reaction to similar proposals when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker expressed the view that any initiative put before the U.N. Security Council calling for placing U.N. observers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would receive Washington's serious consideration. Unfortunately, since striking that positive note, the U.S. was subjected as usual to Israeli intimidation and as usual it knuckled by starting to waver on that proposal. Nevertheless, the idea of increasing the U.N. presence in the occupied territories could still be a breakthrough if adopted by the U.N. Security Council. In many ways such a plan could very well usher in the true commencement of the settlement of the Palestinian situation. By at least placing U.N. observers in the occupied territories, the stage would be set to place the entire West Bank and Gaza Strip under the trusteeship of the United Nations in preparation for statehood and independence for the Palestinian people. Of course, Israel knows only too well the implications of such a move. That is why Tel Aviv hastened to oppose Baker's announcement of U.S. support of the idea to have a U.N. presence in the occupied territories to monitor the situation there. And all of a sudden Israel started remembering international law especially the Geneva Convention and started to invoke its "rights" under that convention as an occupying power. Whatever happened in Tel Aviv's official stance that that convention is not applicable to the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

Nevertheless, there are no pertinent provisions in international law relevant to the occupation of territories by an aggressor, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, that prevents a greater U.N. involvement in monitoring the alarming situation in an occupied territory. Secondly, it so happens that the United Nations system adopts legal principles and resolutions that have the effect and force of customary international law. Above all, the Security Council, the very U.N. organ that can take enforceable and binding resolutions, has the power as expressed in the United Nations Charter to adopt resolutions and take measures of the kind envisaged now, namely to place U.N. observers in the occupied territories.

If so happens that the PLO is calling for that kind of U.N. action in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. There are growing signs that other members of the U.N. Security Council, including its permanent members, are at least open minded to the principle of enhancing the U.N. presence in the occupied territories in view of the continuing deterioration of the situation there. Should such ideas come to fruition the stage would be set for a meaningful start of the settlement of the elusive Palestinian conflict. It would be timely, therefore, if the Arab summit would declare its support for such an idea and adopt it as an integral part of the Arab stand.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Saturday expressed the view that the Arab summit in Baghdad opening Monday is bound to have additional burdens resulting from Washington's refusal to refrain Israel from committing further crimes in Palestine. The paper said Washington which announced its readiness to send U.N. observer teams to occupied Palestine only to retract its statement in this regard, is trying to complicate matters for the Arab leaders in Baghdad and to confuse the Arab masses. Should Washington continue to lend support for the Israeli criminal actions, then it is bound to be facing a new development in the region and the prospect of having the Palestinians resort to new methods to defend themselves from barbaric attacks, the paper noted. It said that by refraining to send observer teams to Palestine, and by backing Israel's position at the United Nations Security Council, the United States is advocating Israel's terrorism and opening the door wide for counter terrorist acts in the Middle East. The Security Council which heard Yasser Arafat's speech and Jordan's address, is dealing with the question of war of genocide being launched by Israel on the Arabs. Should Washington succeed in thwarting the council's attempts to provide protection to the Palestinians, then the paper added it would have on purpose thwarted moves towards peace and a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict by allowing this chance to be missed.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily launches a bitter attack on the United States, describing its policies in the Middle East as a big lie. Tareq Masarweh says in his column that Washington is doing silly things and acting foolishly by trying to dissuade Arab leaders from taking a collective action vis-a-vis Israel's atrocities and United States hostile position. The writer says that the United States has no credibility in the Arab World, and no one can ever believe a word of what Washington's statesmen say. The writer notes that Washington was trying to play for time by first announcing its approval to send U.N. observer teams to Palestine only to retract its words; and also by sending false assurances to the Arab leaders that Israel would never start a war. The Arabs have mustered sufficient experience in dealing with the United States and its false statements since 1967 when Israel considered Egypt's demand to have control of Sharm Al Sheikh as tantamount to a declaration of war, hence its June aggression on the Arabs, the writer notes. He says Israel considers Iraq's possession of missiles as a declaration of war and is planning for a new aggression which the Arabs can never rule out.

The current debate at the U.N. Security Council in Geneva offers a good chance for the world community to better understand the situation in the Middle East and offers the Arabs a chance to expose Israel's atrocities against the Palestinian people, said Al Dinstour in its editorial Saturday. The paper said that the world community now watches Israel staging a war of genocide against the defenceless Palestinian women and children as PLO leader Yasser Arafat said in his address to the council Friday. The current criminal actions committed by the Zionists should prompt the council and the world community to heed Arafat's call for sending U.N. observer teams to monitor the situation and to pave the way for a solution to the Palestine problem, the paper said. The Palestinian people, the paper added have the right to protection from the world community in the face of continued crimes and atrocities, and they also deserve solidarity from all peace-loving nations.

Sunday Economic Pulse

Unrest causes heavy economic losses

THREE days of unrest in Jordan almost overshadowed the Israeli massacre of seven Palestinian labourers and left political, security and economic scars that need some time to evaluate. Today I shall try to look into, and where possible quantify, the damages that resulted from the unrest in four major economic sectors.

For 20 years, since 1970 Jordan was an island of stability and internal security in the troubled Middle East. At all times, foreigners residing in Jordan or those arriving for tourism or business felt safe and at ease, not only because of security and stability, but also because of the friendly and hospitable attitude Jordanians.

The assault on the French tourists in Amman and the violence that accompanied some of the popular marches and demonstrations which followed the Israeli killing of the

Arab labourers did not only echo in the world at large, but it shocked the average Jordanian, who condemns violence and disorder instigated by an irresponsible minority especially when it diverted world attention away from Israeli atrocities committed in the occupied territories, and threatened the national security of the country.

Peaceful and civilised expression of opinion and national sentiments, including marches and demonstrations, could have been a positive indicator of democracy, which allowed the people to express anger on behalf of the whole Arab Nation against the Palestinian holocaust at the hands of the new fascists of Israel, and in support of the intifada.

Unfortunately, the drift to violence and destruction of property, limited as it may have been, drew the attention

of the news agencies and overshadowed the killing of 15 Palestinians by Israelis in one day.

Security forces showed self-restraint and firmness, and left no doubt that the security of the country can be protected. Although the unrest was mainly political, yet the worst consequences will be economical.

At least four sectors are going to be affected because of the incidents. These are tourism, expatriate remittances, new investment, and capital flight.

In tourism, Jordan's income from the sector in 1989 amounted to JD 350 million (\$525 million). The estimated loss resulting from the cancellation of group tours and the scaring off of potential tourists could not be less than \$50 million. It is unfortunate that this blow took place at a time when incoming tourism was gaining momentum. Until last

week the forecast growth of tourist arrivals in 1990 was 15 per cent. Now, it will fall down considerably.

Remittances from Jordanian expatriates in 1989 reached JD 380 million (\$570 million). It was expected to reach \$300 million in 1990 according to projections by the Central Bank and the IMF mission.

The incidents may cause some expatriates to keep their savings abroad, and thus Jordan may end up with another loss of \$50 million or so.

As far as new investments are concerned, the private sector has been hesitating to make new investments. Potential investors opted to wait and see if Jordan's economic adjustment programme is going to work and whether or not the government is going to adhere to it. Now that the programme started to show better results than was expected, and the commitment of the govern-

ment to the programme was established, it was hoped that new investment will start to pick up. Now it is feared that the hesitant investors will have second thoughts and new factors to take into consideration.

Finally the unrest must have a negative effect on capital flight. It was noticed that capital flight from Jordan was halted as of mid 1989. On the contrary, some private capital was repatriated after the relative stability of the exchange rate since August. It is only reasonable to expect some capital flight in one hand and a slow down in the return of Jordanian private capital abroad on the other.

These were the bad news. The good news is that some analysts see in what happened a test which Jordan passed with flying colours. The system proved to be effective, maintaining law and order firmly, and

the security forces to uphold law without being condemned from any political group. In fact both left and right sided by law and order and condemned violence and disorder, which may prove to be inspired by the enemies of Jordan.

However, the damaging impact of the three difficult days is of temporary nature. The losses will be short-term and the image of Jordan will be restored within weeks. What happened was the exception to the rule and not an indicator of a trend.



NATO: A bit more comfortable this year?

By Charles Aldinger
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Perhaps U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney best typified NATO's relief this week as the Western alliance began to reduce its expensive military guard against Moscow for the first time in 40 years.

"A year ago, I had to go sell three per cent," he said, recalling Washington's repeated, unpopular calls for member states to raise military spending by three per cent a year.

"I'm much more comfortable this year," Cheney added with a grin on May 22 while en route to Brussels, knowing that on May 23 defence ministers would scrap that grating budget demand in response to the fall of the Warsaw Pact.

By May 24 night, the ministers' defence planning committee had also flashed expensive and unpopular war games and announced that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation would begin slightly reducing its battle readiness on July 1.

"He isn't the only one who is more comfortable these days," a senior NATO official said on hearing the Cheney remark.

"And to think it was Gorbachev who came over the hill and put us out for our financial misery," NATO defence ministers ended a two-day meeting in Brussels on May 24, with a pledge to link again at strategies formed in the 1960s, when the Warsaw Pact was seen as a major threat to the West and its values. The review is to be finished by the end of the year. A conference of NATO Leaders in London in July is expected to agree on more guidelines.

With the Soviet military spurned in Eastern Europe and getting fewer roubles at home, private defence analysts praised the NATO move to relax its military posture for the first time since it was formed in 1949.

"The cold war is history. We don't want to rip up the security blanket yet, but it's time to store guns and count dividends," said former U.S.

Disastrous week for Jewish state

By Paul Taylor
Reuters

TEL AVIV — It has been a disastrous week for Israel, one of the worst since the Palestinian uprising erupted in December 1987.

A beleaguered caretaker government faces a growing danger of the conflict with Palestinians in the occupied territories being internationalised — and spreading to Israel's own Arab minority.

Sympathy protests in Jordan, uninvited foreign fact-finding missions and a threat of U.N. intervention have alarmed Israeli leaders.

A chain of events mostly beyond the government's control has left the Jewish state as isolated as at any time since its 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

On May 20, a "deranged" Israeli shot dead seven Palestinians, re-igniting widespread riots in which troops and Jewish settlers shot dead 16 Arabs and wounded nearly 900 in six days.

On May 21, violence spread to Israeli Arabs while the Arab World raged at Israel.

On May 22, the clashes reached the doorstep of the U.S. consulate in East Jerusalem. Washington called on Israel to restrain its troops and implicitly blamed the Jewish

state for the lack of progress towards Middle East peace.

On May 23, the United States said it would support sending a U.N. observer mission to the occupied territories. Israel flatly refused.

On May 24, the war of words with Washington intensified. Uninvited French and Soviet delegations arrived to study the situation in the occupied territories.

On May 25, Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat, seen by Israelis as their arch-enemy, was addressing a special session of the U.N. Security Council in Geneva with the Jewish state standing virtually alone.

Israel officials see each international condemnation as another achievement for the PLO and the leadership of the uprising.

Policy-makers fear the Security Council session and next week's Arab summit in Baghdad will give the uprising and the PLO a further boost.

"Each small victory gives them more motivation and staying power to continue the intifada (uprising)," said a senior analyst, who may not be identified. "This week the other side scored a lot of points."

The Israelis say the most worrying aspects are the



Al Dinstour

spread of protests against Israel to Jordan, and the increasing entanglement of Israel's 650,000 Arab citizens.

"Everything that happens in Jordan is played back here and reinforces the Arabs in the West Bank," the analyst said. Television pictures of riot police dispersing marchers who tried to march on the bridge to the West Bank earlier this month helped trigger the latest wave of unrest in the occupied territories.

"Likewise everything that happens inside the green line (of Israel's pre-1967 borders) is seen in the territories and affects what happens there," the analyst said.

Israel's most respected military commentator, Zeev Schiff, wrote in the newspaper Haaretz: "The continuation of the occupation and the bloody confrontation in the territories will in the end bring the violent struggle inside the borders of Israel. It will be a confrontation between the state of Israel

and its Arab minority." The sudden re-ignition of the smouldering uprising could hardly have come at a worse time for Israel.

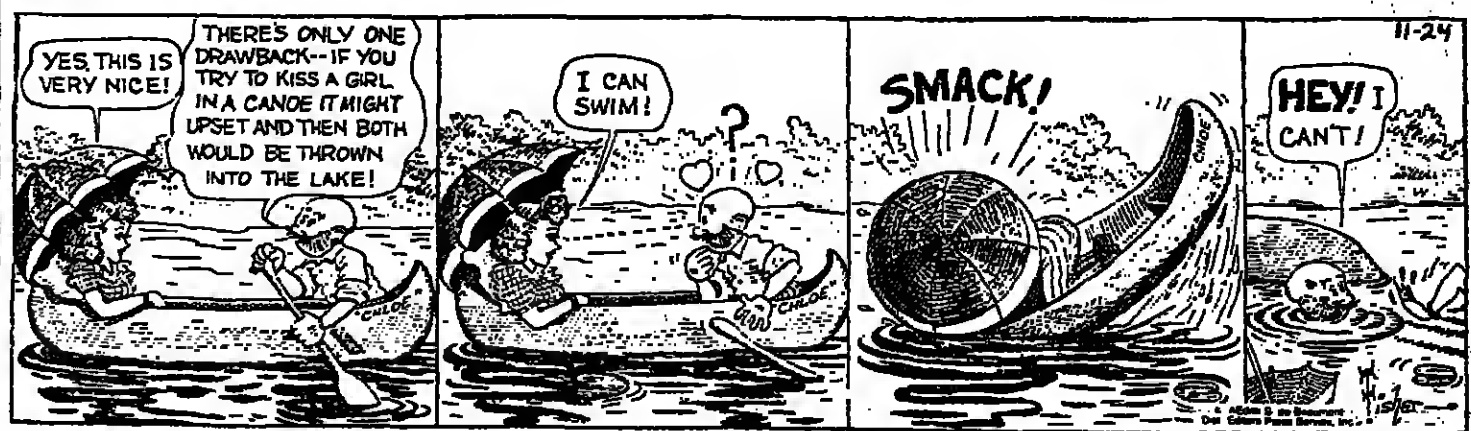
After 10 weeks of a debilitating political crisis, it still has no new government and caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's efforts to form a right-wing cabinet could further alienate the Jewish state's friends.

Relations with Washington have reached a low point following Shamir's refusal to accept U.S. proposals for peace talks with the Palestinians, and his approval of new Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land.

Bewildered leaders refuse to accept that their own policies have contributed to Israel's isolation and blame anti-Semitism or double standards for the international furor.

The mood in Israel's corridors of power is gloomy and defiant, not conciliatory.

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



LA SEMAINE DE

Suleiman Swelss

Bagdad: défis au sommet



Peut-être le sommet arabe de Bagdad constituera-t-il un tournant historique dans les annales de l'action arabe commune. Trop d'espérances, ou de sentiments mitigés, se font jour dans l'attente de cet événement. Le massacre de 7 ouvriers palestiniens commis par un forcené israélien dimanche dernier ainsi que la répression, avenue de l'armée d'occupation sont autant de défis qui viennent d'ajouter à ceux, déjà nombreux, du sommet. Pour de nombreux Arabes, l'heure a sonné de mesures décisives. Ils exigent que soient relevés les défis accumulés pendant de longues années d'impuissance et de politiques erronées. A défaut, la région risque le déluge, la débâcle ou le suicide collectif tout court.

Il y a d'abord le défi israélien. Malgré toutes les concessions faites par les régimes arabes et l'OLP, la paix n'a jamais semblé aussi loin. La politique autoritaire des dirigeants israéliens et celle des Américains sont les premières responsables de la situation. La sécurité nationale arabe s'en trouve gravement menacée depuis des années. Certains observateurs vont jusqu'à estimer qu'Israël se prépare à déclencher une nouvelle guerre d'expansion, au service des nouveaux émigrants juifs soviétiques.

Le massacre de dimanche dernier montre que la coupe est pleine. Il suffit de considérer les réactions populaires en Jordanie. Les manifestations de colère se sont largement répandues dans le pays. Il faut le dire: la politique criminelle, arrogante et méprisante qu'impriment les dirigeants israéliens laisse de moins en moins de choix aux Arabes, y compris aux plus modérés d'entre eux.

Autre défi, qui attend les participants au sommet de Bagdad: clarifier la place que les Arabes vont occuper dans un monde qui se défait et se refait. Après les bouleversements survenus dans les pays de l'Est, quelle peut être la politique du "régime arabe traditionnel" à l'égard des grandes puissances? Il apparaît plus évident aujourd'hui que les relations entre nations s'établissent sur la base d'intérêts réciproques, plutôt que sur celle des idéologies. La force des Etats est d'ailleurs avant tout d'ordre économique. C'est pourquoi il faut sans doute se décider à activer un processus d'union entre pays arabes. Sinon, ces derniers risquent d'être progressivement anéantis. L'unification des deux Yémen, cette semaine, est un signe encourageant de la lucidité de certains dirigeants arabes.

Troisième défi: le développement économique. La plupart des pays arabes sont confrontés à de graves crises, au chômage, à la dette extérieure et à la faiblesse de leur croissance économique. C'est notamment le cas de la Jordanie, de l'Égypte, du Soudan, de la Tunisie. Les régimes arabes ont perdu beaucoup de temps au cours des deux dernières décennies. En 1980, les dirigeants arabes s'étaient retrouvés à Amman et avaient décrété les années 1990 décennie du développement. Peu de progrès ont été réalisés depuis, malgré de nombreuses réunions, d'innombrables projets et des dépenses de milliards de dollars. Les dirigeants arabes sont appelés à dépasser leurs divergences et leurs intérêts régionaux pour pouvoir enfin créer la communauté économique arabe, tant attendue par la population des différents pays.

Quel est le rôle de la Jordanie dans tout cela? Répondons-nous: l'idée du sommet des chefs d'Etat du monde arabe a pris corps il y a un mois à Tunis, après l'évocation par la Jordanie et l'OLP de l'urgence d'une réaction aux vagues d'émigrants juifs d'Union Soviétique. Pour relever ce défi, la Jordanie attend des autres pays arabes un soutien concret, principalement sur le plan économique. Les revendications populaires, elles, mettent l'accent sur la réactivation prioritaire du "Front oriental", constitué de la Jordanie, de la Syrie, de l'OLP, de l'Irak et du Liban. Une solidarité accrue avec l'Intifada et le peuple palestinien semble tout autant primordiale et indispensable. Etant les plus exposés aux dangers sionistes, la Jordanie et l'OLP ont grand intérêt au succès du sommet de Bagdad.

Un sommet, qui devra trouver une réponse à la question fondamentale de l'attitude du monde arabe dans son ensemble face aux défis qui surgissent en cette fin de XXe siècle.

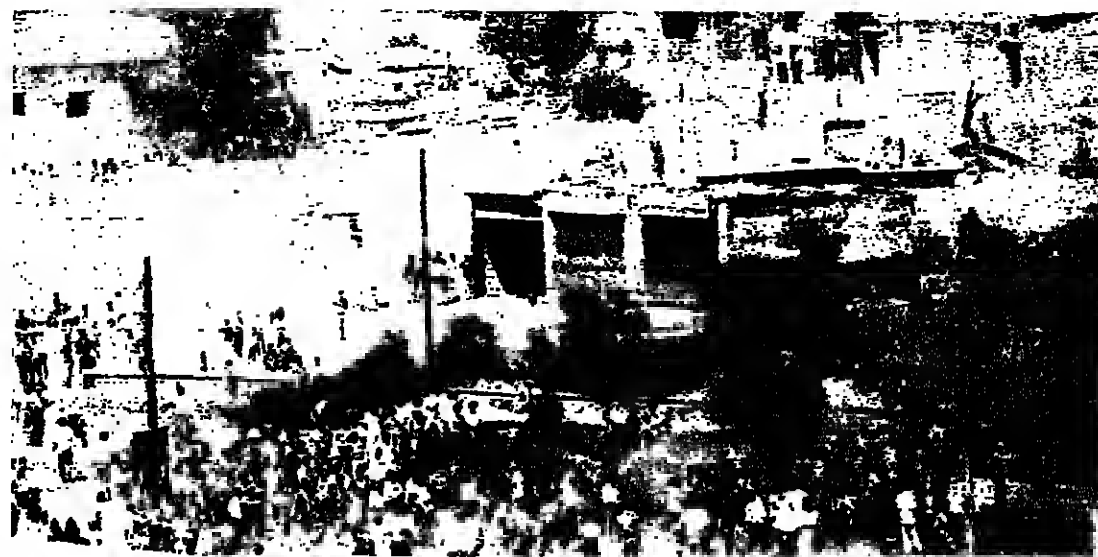
3 morts et 29 blessés dans les manifestations en Jordanie

Trois jours de deuil enfiévré

Des centaines de milliers de réfugiés palestiniens ont observé cette semaine un deuil de trois jours, au lendemain du massacre de huit ouvriers de Gaza par un forcené israélien dimanche au sud de Tel Aviv. De nombreuses manifestations se sont

succédées de lundi à mercredi dans les camps de Jordanie ainsi qu'à Amman. Plusieurs d'entre elles ont dégénéré en affrontements avec les forces de l'ordre, faisant trois morts et 29 blessés.

Les funérailles vendredi de Mohammad Abbas Abou Ghadib, 22 ans, tué mardi dans le camp de Hitine au nord-est d'Amman, ont constitué le dernier événement d'une semaine d'agitation tout azimut en Jordanie. Près de 500 personnes, dont deux parlementaires jordaniens, ont suivi dans le calme le cercueil, enveloppé dans un drapeau palestinien, jusqu'au cimetière du camp de réfugiés. La plupart portaient des calicots sur lesquels étaient inscrits «unité de la lutte jordano-palestinienne» ou «le sang des martyrs ne sera pas gaspillé».



Panx enflammés, routes jonchées de pierres: les manifestations de cette semaine ont parfois dégénéré.

Ces obsèques ont fait suite à l'enterrement discret, jeudi, d'un autre manifestant de Hitine, également âgé de 22 ans, tué la veille dans une autre manifestation. Trois personnes ont au total trouvé la mort et 29 autres ont été blessées, selon le dernier bilan officiel, dans les troubles qui ont secoué le royaume cette semaine.

La colère des réfugiés palestiniens de Jordanie était prévisible. Le massacre arabe de huit ouvriers de Gaza, dimanche dernier à Rishon le Zion, près de Tel Aviv, a particulièrement affecté ceux qui vivent à quelques dizaines de kilomètres seulement de la rive ouest du Jourdain. C'est d'ailleurs dans les camps que, dès lundi, plusieurs centaines de personnes, jeunes pour la plupart, ont envahi les rues étroites pour dénoncer la répression israélienne. Ainsi dans le camp de Baqaa, sur la route de Jérash, où une première manifestation s'est déroulée le matin dans le calme à l'appel des syndicats professionnels et de plusieurs organisations palestiniennes.

Alors que sur presque toutes les maisons flottaient des drapeaux noirs, des groupes de jeunes, souvent inorganisés, s'en sont pris au poste de police à l'entrée, avant de s'en prendre à une boutique de fleur au rez-de-chaussée du bâtiment. Ces incidents ont provoqué l'intervention musclée de la police, qui, à coups de matraques et de bombes lacrymogènes, a repoussé un plus tard dans la nuit quelque 15.000 manifestants qui tentaient de s'approcher de l'ambassade des Etats-Unis.

Mardi matin, les explosions de colère se sont multipliées. Alors que deux manifestations pacifiques se déroulaient devant l'université de Jordanie, le camp de Baqaa entraînait dans sa journée la plus chaude. Vers 10h00, ses quelque 75.000 habitants se sont retrouvés soumis à un véritable blocus par des unités blindées postées à l'entrée principale.

an calme, demandant aux manifestants de «faire preuve d'esprit de résistance et de responsabilité nationales, afin de renforcer le climat démocratique en Jordanie». Appels majoritairement entendus mercredi, hormis dans le camp de Hitine où de nouveaux affrontements avec la police ont fait une nouvelle victime.

Le roi Hussein, qui participait jeudi aux célébrations du 44ème anniversaire de l'indépendance du royaume, a estimé qu'il s'agissait d'une «réaction d'émotion de tous les Jordaniens face aux agissements d'Israël dans les territoires occupés». Le souverain hachémite n'a cependant pas exclu que des éléments, qu'il n'a pas nommé, aient profité des manifestations de colère en Jordanie pour «créer des incidents».

Alain Renon avec agences.

Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU

Arafat plaide pour l'envoi d'une force d'interposition

Le président du Conseil exécutif de l'OLP, qui s'est exprimé vendredi, pour la première fois, devant le Conseil de sécurité des Nations-Unies à Genève, a demandé à l'ONU d'envoyer d'urgence une force d'interposition dans les territoires occupés, pour protéger les Palestiniens de la «guerre d'extermination» menée selon lui par Israël. Yasser Arafat a placé la barre très haut en sollicitant également des sanctions contre l'Etat hébreu et le rejet de toute nouvelle implantation de colons juifs en Cisjordanie ou à Gaza.

Le massacre de 8 ouvriers palestiniens dimanche dernier au sud de Tel Aviv, qui est à l'origine de la convocation du Conseil de sécurité, n'est pas dû à «la folie d'un individu» a-t-il déclaré, mais à la «guerre d'extermination» menée selon lui par Israël. Yasser Arafat a placé la barre très haut en sollicitant également des sanctions contre l'Etat hébreu et le rejet de toute nouvelle implantation de colons juifs en Cisjordanie ou à Gaza.

Yasser Arafat a également demandé au secrétaire général de l'ONU, Javier Perez de Cuellar, de désigner un émissaire permanent chargé de promouvoir la paix dans la région, ou, à défaut, de se charger en personne du dossier. Il a aussi souhaité que les cinq pays membres du Conseil de sécurité (Union Soviétique, Etats-Unis, France, Grande-Bretagne et Chine) se réunissent sans délai pour travailler à la mise au point d'une conférence internationale de paix au Proche-Orient.

L'accès à la tribune du Conseil de sécurité constitue un nouveau succès diplomatique pour le numéro un palestinien, deux jours seulement après l'adoption, au Caire, par l'Internationale socialiste d'une résolution reconnaissant aux Palestiniens le droit de construire un Etat. Il est cependant peu probable que les Nations-Unis répondent favorablement à ses demandes. Les Israéliens ont fait savoir dès

jeudi soir qu'il ne laisseraient entrer aucun observateur de l'ONU. Le porte-parole du premier ministre Yitzhak Shamir a même déclaré qu'une telle démarche serait considérée par Tel Aviv comme «une ingérence dans les affaires intérieures d'Israël».

La Ligue des Etats arabes comme les Etats-Unis ont fait savoir, avant même l'allocation de Yasser Arafat, qu'ils s'opposaient à l'envoi d'observateurs permanents de l'ONU dans les territoires occupés. La Ligue estime en effet qu'il «signifierait la permanence de l'occupation». Washington, qui dispose d'un droit de veto aux Nations-Unis, lui préfère une «courte visite» à des fins d'information, a indiqué vendredi un responsable américain.

Aucune décision n'est attendue ce soir à Genève, à l'issue de la réunion des «Cinq». La session du Conseil de sécurité devrait cependant reprendre dès mardi à New York. (D'après agences).

EN BREF

Visite. Le secrétaire au Foreign Office, Douglas Hurd, se rendra en visite officielle en Jordanie du 30 mai au 1er juin, puis en Arabie Saoudite jusqu'au 3 juin, a indiqué Londres jeudi. M. Hurd s'entretiendra à Amman avec son homologue jordanien, Marwan al-Qassem, et sera reçu par le roi Hussein. La dernière visite d'un ministre britannique des Affaires étrangères dans le royaume hachémite remonte à novembre 1987.

Ambassadeur. Le président George Bush a nommé jeudi Roger Harrison au poste d'ambassadeur des Etats-Unis en Jordanie. M. Harrison, diplomate de carrière, enseigne depuis 1989 au Colorado College. Il avait auparavant occupé les fonctions de sous-secrétaire d'Etat pour la Défense et le contrôle des armements, puis de conseiller politique à Tel Aviv, à Londres, à l'OTAN, à Varsovie et à Manille. Roger Harrison succède en Jordanie à Roscoe Suddarth.

Jérash. Le dixième Festival de la Culture et des Arts de Jérash se déroulera du 11 au 17 juillet prochains, a annoncé cette semaine le ministère jordanien de la Culture. Aucune précision n'a cependant été donnée sur le nombre de pays et de groupes participant cette année à cette manifestation, qui a lieu chaque été sur le site de la cité antique. Le ministère du Tourisme a par ailleurs annoncé le lancement d'une série de spectacles son et lumière à Jérash, en prélude à l'ouverture du festival.

Sommet arabe. Le conseil ministériel de la Ligue arabe a rendu public jeudi les cinq points à l'ordre du jour du sommet arabe extraordinaire, qui s'ouvrira demain à Bagdad. Comme prévu, les chefs d'Etat arabes, à l'exception notoire du président syrien, aborderont les «menaces dirigées contre la nation arabe (...) notamment contre l'Irak et la Libye» et le «développement» de la cause palestinienne, de l'Intifada ainsi que de l'immigration des juifs soviétiques en Israël. Le sommet examinera également les bouleversements politiques en Europe de l'Est, la situation irano-irakienne et la «solidarité» avec la Jordanie.

Gabon. Huit cents de quelque 3.000 ressortissants français de Port Gentil, dans le sud du Gabon, ont profité vendredi du pont aérien, mis en place par les renforts militaires français, pour quitter la ville. L'ambassade de France à Libreville, la capitale, a précisé qu'il ne s'agissait pas d'une opération d'évacuation. La situation dans le pays reste cependant tendue depuis l'éclatement des troubles mercredi. Troubles provoqués par le décès dans des conditions obscures d'un opposant au président Bongo.

Pluralisme. Le Parlement polonais, réuni jeudi en séance plénière à Varsovie a approuvé l'instauration du pluralisme et la création de partis politiques dans le pays. La loi, votée par une écrasante majorité de parlementaires, autorise la formation de forces politiques sur simple déclaration devant le tribunal constitutionnel. Elle engage également l'Etat à assurer aux partis l'accès à la radio et à la télévision.

Cigarette. La troisième journée mondiale sans tabac, organisée le 31 mai par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS), sera principalement orientée vers les jeunes. Selon l'OMS, cette action symbolique a pour objectif d'aider les gouvernements, les collectivités, les groupes et les individus à risque à prendre conscience du problème que pose l'usage du tabac pour les enfants et de les encourager à prendre des mesures appropriées pour le combattre.

Déficit. La Croix-Rouge française (CRF) accuse un déficit global de près de 400 millions de francs (quelque 71 millions de dollars) a déclaré mardi à Paris sa présidente, Georgina Dufoix. Cette dernière espère cependant que «la situation de la Croix-Rouge sera en équilibre» à la fin de l'année. Pour y parvenir, Mme Dufoix compte fermer de nouveaux établissements de la CRF et procéder à la vente d'une partie du capital immobilier de l'organisation humanitaire.

Racisme. Le tribunal de grande instance de Nanterre, près de Paris, a condamné mercredi le président du Front national (extrême droite), Jean-Marie Le Pen, au franc symbolique pour avoir qualifié de «point de détail» historique l'existence des chambres à gaz. Les juges lui ont notamment reproché d'avoir «banalisé» les persécutions nazies. Cette décision intervient au moment où l'extrême droite et le raisonnement font fait la une de tous les débats politiques en France.

Universités. Le ministre français de l'Education nationale a présenté mercredi au gouvernement un plan de développement quinquennal des universités, incluant notamment la construction de nouveaux locaux. Les établissements existants ont en effet une capacité de 700.000 places alors que le nombre d'étudiants atteint presque le double cette année. La participation de l'Etat à ce plan a été chiffrée à 16 milliards de francs (2,85 milliards de dollars).

Navette. Le lancement de la navette spatiale américaine Colombia, transportant l'observatoire astronomique «Astro», a été fixé au 30 mai par la NASA. La mission «Astro» avait été initialement prévue en 1986, mais l'explosion de Challenger, en janvier de cette année-là, suivie du gel des lancements, lui a valu de prendre un retard considérable. L'observatoire «Astro», d'un prix de 150 millions de dollars, se compose de 4 télescopes d'étude des rayonnements ultraviolets et des rayons X.

Taylor. L'état de santé de l'actrice américaine Elizabeth Taylor s'est nettement amélioré cette semaine après un mois et demi de lutte contre une pneumonie, qui a failli lui être fatale. La comédienne pourrait même quitter l'hôpital dans les prochains jours, selon les médecins de l'hôpital Saint John de Santa Monica, en Californie.

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"Signes d'Etoffe" au CCF

Une drôle d'impression

Une exposition de tissus imprimés, œuvres du plasticien syrien Moustafa Fathi, s'est ouverte cette semaine au centre culturel français (*). Elle cotoie des photographies de Syrie et des objets de la vie quotidienne des bédouins et nomades de ce pays, dont elle ne s'inspire que très partiellement.

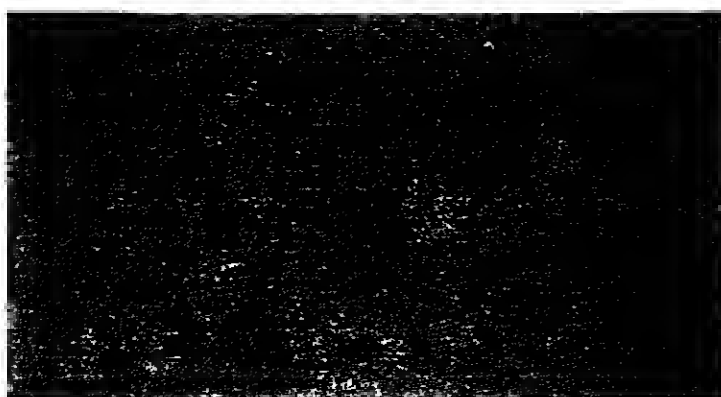
D'un côté, des photos de paysages de Syrie, des kilims, des appliques, des broderies et des moules en pain de terre et en bois traditionnels; de l'autre, les imprimés contemporains du plasticien Moustafa Fathi.

Les premiers objets, que les paysans, les nomades bédouins et non bédouins de Syrie emploient tous les jours, ne sauraient en aucun cas entrer dans l'univers des œuvres d'art. Ils offrent un aperçu de la vie quotidienne de ces populations traditionnelles et une projection bien étroite de leur condition sociale.

Les imprimés sur coton de Moustafa Fathi, pour leur part,

posent problème. Certes, le plasticien, né dans le Horan (région du sud de la Syrie) en 1942, ancien élève de l'Ecole des Beaux Arts de Paris, connaît les traditions de gravure des moules. Il a voyagé dans toutes les régions du pays, entretenant un rapport privilégié avec le passé qui l'a amené à se définir comme un "artiste populaire".

Il n'empêche. Dans la tradition millénaire de l'impression sur tissu en Syrie, c'est la fabrication des moules, le choix des signes et autres symboles, ainsi que la technique d'impression qui comptent. L'ordre, le rythme et la couleur des traits sont en rapport



étroit avec l'histoire de cette activité artisanale. Or, Moustafa Fathi semble ne pas en tenir compte. Ses tampons et moules ne respectent pas les principes originaux de fabrication: le dessin y est en creux, par exemple, quand il devrait être en relief.

L'impression elle-même s'en ressent. Ses imprimés offrent un désordre graphique, présentent des signes hors de toute symbolique et des bavures de couleur d'autant plus piquantes que tout l'art des ouvriers syriens

réside dans la netteté de l'application. Autre principe mis à mal: celui de la reproduction. La gravure artisanale s'efforce de rendre possible la copie d'un imprimé. Moustafa Fathi, quant à lui, s'y refuse. Il s'agit, certes, sur ce sujet précis d'un choix. Un choix, qui l'éloigne néanmoins d'une tradition dans la continuité de laquelle il souhaite s'inscrire.

Sabah al-Hadidi.

(*) Voir "A l'affiche".

Passez-moi mon français

Wadi Ram: encyclopédie planétaire

Vale Egeria!

Il s'est passé tant de choses graves et tristes dans cette région, dans ce pays, que le reste, y compris cette correspondance, m'apparaît bien frivole. Je la poursuis cependant par devoir, par amitié pour toi et par amour pour la Jordanie.

Je reviens de Wadi Ram. On appelle génériquement Wadi Ram (qui n'est qu'une des vallées qui le sillonnent) le territoire au sud-est de la Jordanie, parce qu'il est en quelque sorte le plus connu, et a été, pendant des siècles, le passage d'élection des nomades qui revenaient de l'Arabie ou y allaient. Il offre un spectacle d'une beauté majestueuse et dramatique, autant par ses montagnes de grès dans lesquelles le vent a sculpté d'étranges formes, que par ses couleurs. La grande fracture qui a séparé la péninsule arabe de l'Afrique, en créant la dépression de la mer Morte et la mer Rouge, a contribué à le former.

Les montagnes de la région sont constituées d'un socle de granit précambrien, surmonté par des grès cambriens rouges, ordoviciens gris clair et siluriens blanchâtres. Les nombreuses sources, qu'on y trouve, se forment là où l'eau, qui filtre à travers les couches perméables de grès, rencontre le socle imperméable de granit, qui avec sa légère inclinaison lui permet de sortir en plein air.

Le botaniste trouve à Wadi Ram des essences (vrais fossiles vivants) qui témoignent des changements climatiques advenus dans la région. Ce territoire, en effet, a connu des périodes d'humidité, qui le voyait sinon couvert de forêts sûrement d'une savane où se mêlaient aussi une flore méditerranéenne. Quelques exemplaires de cèdres de Libye, entr'autres, sont encore là pour en témoigner. Les fossiles sont nombreux, même les trilobites, qui, avec les éponges, sont la plus ancienne forme de vie de la planète. Ce qui nous ramène en arrière dans le temps, entre 600 et 500 millions d'années.

Le professeur Edoardo Borzatti von Lowenstern, responsable du Laboratoire d'Ecologie du Quaternaire de l'université de Florence, étudie depuis dix-huit ans, avec la collaboration formée de spécialistes des différentes disciplines ethno-anthropo-écologiques, ce territoire, qui semble être une véritable encyclopédie de notre planète. Il s'est retrouvé, en effet, face à une foule de pièces archéologiques, qui semblent montrer que les lieux ont été habités, sans interruption, depuis la préhistoire. Ce conte, vieux de 400.000 ans, est assez compliqué à lire, mais il semble vouloir se dévoiler, bien qu'avec beaucoup de réticence, à ce gentilhomme menu de taille, aux réflexes rapides et dont les yeux semblent regarder et voir loin.

Borzatti donc, s'est demandé encore, s'il était possible de refaire la genèse du nomadisme. Est-il vrai qu'il descend, depuis le néolithique (et comme l'affirme souvent la littérature anthropologique) des communautés agricoles sédentaires? Ou, au contraire, serait-il permis de soutenir que l'origine des nomades remonte directement à la matrice culturelle qui ressemble à la leur, c'est à dire celle des anciennes communautés de chasseurs paléomésolithiques?

Déjà, une première difficulté d'interprétation surgit avec le bouleversement des couches superficielles du terrain, provoqué par la violente action des agents climatiques: une forte érosion, une grande amplitude thermique entre le jour et la nuit, le sable qui s'est déposé dans les vallées en une couche d'au moins 150 mètres d'épaisseur, le vent et l'eau qui ont profondément entaillé les rochers et transporté pierres et sable en mélangeant, très souvent, des témoignages préhistoriques d'époques différentes.

Changement drastique

La recherche minutieuse menée par le groupe de Florence a permis, malgré tout, de découvrir des sites d'une extrême antiquité. C'est en 1982 que l'équipe paléontologique a trouvé un gisement lithique qui est, pour le moment, le plus ancien de Jordanie et peut-être aussi du Moyen-Orient. A Batn el-Ghoul, aux confins de l'Arabie Saoudite, une tribu de chasseurs se rassemblait il y a quelque 400.000 ans pour fabriquer ses armes et se réorganiser. Ils vivaient de chasse et de fruits sauvages, mais ils connaissaient déjà le feu et mangeaient leur viande cuite. En ce temps là, la flore était abondante et permettait une cueillette facile.

Ce gisement appartient à l'âge aculéen. Les traces des périodes plus récentes, telles que le paléolithique moyen (120.000-35.000 ans) sont beaucoup plus nombreuses et celles du paléolithique supérieur ont donné des résultats complexes et particulièrement intéressants: il semblerait que cette période, qui marque la fin de l'ère tertiaire, se soit conclue en Jordanie avec une véritable avancée sur le reste du monde, pour laisser place à des cultures profondément nouvelles. Ce changement drastique, en effet, n'a lieu en Europe qu'autour de l'an 10.000 av. J.-C., tandis qu'il se présente en Jordanie quelques dizaines de milliers d'années auparavant. Des gisements, qu'on peut dater autour de 14.000-13.000 av. J.-C., le prouvent.

Pour des raisons qui sont encore obscures, l'équilibre économique des tribus de chasseurs paléolithiques, qui n'avaient jamais été modifié, se rompt et se conforme à de nouveaux modèles socio-économiques de vie. Déjà en 1925, V. Gordon Childe avait souligné l'importance de ce

phénomène, qu'il avait appelé "révolution néolithique". Les recherches qui ont été faites depuis lors en Turquie, en Irak, en Syrie, en Palestine et en Jordanie, ne laissent plus aucun doute sur le fait qu'entre 9.000 et 6.500 ans avant notre ère, on pratiquait déjà ici l'agriculture et l'élevage et que les groupes humains s'étaient organisés en établissements stationnaires très complexes et évolués.

C'est une étape fondamentale dans la vie de l'homme, qui d'un rôle passif de chasse et de cueillette passe à un rôle actif de production, avec l'agriculture et l'élevage. Avec ce changement, l'homme se transforme culturellement et spirituellement en passant du nomadisme à l'urbanisation, à la politique, au commerce, jusqu'à la notion d'Etat, à la découverte des métaux, pour arriver à notre civilisation moderne.

Tous les hommes n'ont cependant pas subi cette transformation. Le professeur Borzatti von Lowenstern interprète le fait biblique du péché originel en l'appliquant à cette période. Pour des raisons, qui pourraient être climatiques ou de surpopulation, l'homme n'est plus arrivé à pourvoir aux besoins de sa famille. La femme, qui pour des raisons contingentes était moins mobile que lui, avait remarqué qu'une graine tombée dans la terre donnait naissance à une plante porteuse de d'un nombre bien plus grand des mêmes graines. Elle a alors tendu ce fruit à l'homme, en lui suggérant de travailler la terre pour résoudre ses problèmes. La plus grande partie des hommes a accepté de se plier à l'esclavage du travail et aux dangers que la possession amène avec elle. Une autre partie a refusé la sédentarisation et continué sa vie nomade. C'est la Bible encore qui nous parle du premier crime de l'histoire, commis par Cain l'agriculteur contre Abel le pasteur. La Jordanie, donc, et la ligne naturelle formée par les crêtes des montagnes, qui de la mer Rouge à Palmyre en passant par Pétra marquent le chemin du Nord, est le pays où depuis des temps immémoriaux les sédentaires et les nomades ont rivalisé.

BD de l'antiquité

A part les gisements préhistoriques et les très nombreuses traces de cabanes, l'histoire des nomades et des sédentaires a été écrite sur les rochers de Wadi Ram. C'est une vraie histoire qui nous est racontée, faite d'images, BD de l'antiquité. Les gens, qui sont passés et qui ont vécu sur le territoire, ont choisi de préférence les rochers de grès tendre qui, en se détachant du sommet des montagnes, sont tombés à leur base. Donner un chronologie de ces graffiti est d'une énorme importance pour le scientifique, qui, à nouveau, se heurte à de grosses difficultés. Le grès contient, par nature, des oxydes de fer et de manganèse, qui par un mouvement migratoire arrivent à la surface du roc et lui donnent sa coloration. Quand on grave la pierre, il en résulte un signe clair, comme si on avait dessiné avec une craie. Ce sillon sera envahi, à son tour par les oxydes, qui lui donneront une patine semblable à celle du rocher. Il semblerait donc facile de reconnaître l'âge des graffiti à l'intensité de leur patine.

Mais la chose est bien plus compliquée. Les trois techniques employées pour graver la pierre laissent toutes, à différents degrés, de la poudre provoquée par le broyage des cristaux de grès, ce qui empêche en quelque mesure le contact des oxydes avec les agents thermiques et retarde ou empêche la formation de la patine. Il faut en plus prendre en considération l'exposition de la pierre à la lumière, à l'ombre, au vent, qui pourrait la bombarder de sable, sa densité ou sa composition en couches de natures différentes.

C'est un casse-tête, qui, pour être résolu, réclame beaucoup d'effort, de patience et de prudence. Certains éléments peuvent aider, tout de même, à poser une limite maximum aux faits illustrés: une automobile ne peut être antérieure au XXème siècle et un fusil au XVIIIème. L'arc, avec certaines caractéristiques, le dromadaire et le cheval imposent également des limites de datation. Naturellement, beaucoup de représentations et de signes gravés restent inexplicables. Pour le moment.

Autre découverte intéressante: la "carte" du territoire. En 1978, les Bédouins de Disi ont montré à Borzatti une pierre gravée de 2,80 x 1,70 mètres, presque horizontale, protégée par une cavité artificielle résultant d'un éboulement de la montagne. Elle est sillonnée de traits gravés et de coupelles peu profondes, qui ont un diamètre compris entre 1,3 et 4,5 cm. Que pouvait-elle bien signifier? Un jeu? Un autel? Un moyen pour contrôler le paiement des taxes? Aucune des explications ne semblait satisfaisante. Une idée, qui s'est présentée immédiatement au Professeur Borzatti, a pris de plus en plus de consistance: cette pierre était une représentation du territoire. L'état actuel des recherches semble confirmer cette hypothèse. Des 150 coupelles, 78 correspondent à des gisements néolithiques, que Borzatti a pu déjà contrôler sur le terrain. Les sillons correspondent assez fidèlement aux wadi et indiqueraient la possibilité d'y transiger.

Voilà pour aujourd'hui. Sans doute t'ai-je assommée avec des mots savants et pseudo-savants, mais pouvais-je faire autrement pour te faire partager l'admiration que j'éprouve pour la personne et les travaux de Borzatti? Vale!

Flavia Romero.

A L'AFFICHE

Récital de piano au RCC En mode mineur

Mardi 29 mai au centre culturel royal, la pianiste jordanienne Rula Nabil interprétera et commentera deux œuvres de Mozart ("Fantasia" en Ré mineur et la Sonate en La mineur) ainsi que la Sonate en Ré mineur, Op. 31, N. 2, surnommée "La Tempête" de Beethoven.

Propose-t-elle, avec ce programme à cheval sur les XVIIIe et XIXe siècles, de démontrer l'évolution de la sonate classique? «Pas du tout. Ce que je propose est de créer un climat musical inspiré par un choix de mode. Toutes les œuvres sont en mineur», explique-t-elle. Et pourquoi pas en majeur? «Parce que c'est la sonate de Beethoven qui m'a donné cette idée. Pour rester dans cette ambiance, il m'a fallu trouver d'autres partitions qui soient en harmonie».

Le récital en mode mineur de mardi sera le deuxième de Rula Nabil en Jordanie. Le premier avait eu lieu fin 1988, à son retour de Munich en Allemagne, où elle a fait six ans d'études. Née à Amman en 1966, la jeune artiste joue du piano depuis l'âge de 7 ans.

En quoi ce programme diffère-t-il du précédent? L'affiche du premier concert comprenait toute une série de compositeurs (Bach, Haydn, Chopin), mais ne s'articulait pas autour d'un thème précis. «Pourrait toutes les œuvres étaient en mode mineur», glisse-t-elle, souriante.

Ce mode mineur, évoque-t-il par hasard des sentiments qui lui sont particuliers, très chers? «Pas forcément». Rula s'est

levée et vient de s'asseoir au clavier. «Mais il m'intrigue. Ecoutez». Elle joue quelque chose de grande convergence. «Il y a un certain fatalisme, qui émane de ce mode. Il évoque le destin. C'est séduisant, ça m'attire».

L'œuvre qu'elle vient d'interpréter? «Mozart, la Sonate en La mineur. Premier mouvement. Un Allegro Maestoso. C'est rare que Mozart fasse ce choix du mineur». Cette sonate a-t-elle toujours fait partie de son répertoire? «Non, répond-elle, c'est nouveau pour moi et c'est une belle surprise. Je ne la travaille que depuis deux mois. Par contre, j'ai déjà interprété la "Fantasia". Quant à la "Tempête" de Beethoven, je vis avec depuis deux ans déjà».

Dans le programme, la "Fantasia" ne semble avoir aucun rapport avec les autres œuvres. Pourquoi l'avoir choisie? «Aucun rapport? Pas vrai. La fantasia est une forme voisine de la sonate. Je m'en sers comme introduction, comme une ouverture. Sa structure libre et informelle me donne l'occasion d'introduire de façon badine le mode mineur, avant de m'attaquer au plat de résistance».

S'agit-il de Mozart ou de Beethoven? «La question ne se pose pas», s'exclame-t-elle en se mettant aussitôt à jouer. Accords majestueux. C'est Beethoven. "La Tempête". Elle joue quelques mesures du début: Largo Allegro. Du deuxième mouvement: Adagio. Elle continue, et c'est l'Allegretto, jusqu'à la fin surprise.

Sami Kamal.

EXPOSITIONS

Signes d'Etoiles. Kilims, broderies, talismans... Les pièces exposées font partie de la vie quotidienne des paysans et bédouins de Syrie. S'y ajoutent les créations du plasticien Moustafa Fathi. Centre culturel français, jusqu'au 31 mai. Entrée libre. Tél: 636445.

DIVERS

Danse. Le Jeune Ballet de France présente un spectacle en 25 tableaux, véritable anthologie de la danse classique occidentale. Centre culturel royal, jeudi 31 mai à 20h00. Prix des places: 4 dinars.

CONFERENCES

Charles Nodier. Le directeur du CCF présente l'intellectuel français, qui, à cheval sur les XIXe et XXe siècles, est à la fois le "parrain" des romantiques et un précurseur du surréalisme. Centre culturel français, mercredi 30 mai à 18h00 (en français).

CONCERTS

Récital. La pianiste jordanienne Rula Nabil interprète trois œuvres de Mozart et Beethoven. Centre culturel royal, mardi 29 mai à 20h00. Prix des places: 3 dinars. Tél: 661026. (Voir FOCUS.)

CINEMA

"Bâton rouge", de Rached Bouchared, avec Jacques Penot (1986). Trois jeunes, en quête d'aventure en Amérique et en France.

Centre culturel français, lundi 28 mai à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

"Death of a Salesman", de Volker Schlöndorff, d'après l'œuvre d'Arthur Miller, avec Dustin Hoffman, Charles Durning et Kate Reid. Illusions perdues et suicide d'un commis voyageur, archétype d'une Amérique moyenne...

Centre américain, jeudi 31 mai à 19h00 (en anglais).

JEUX

Mots croisés

par Florence Mouton

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.

1: représentations. 2: indignés. 3: le français; qui a un gros ventre. 4: élève. 5: forme d'avoir; adjectif possessif; préfixe. 6: sacrifices; 7: négation; a vu le jour; pronom personnel. 8: longue période; épreuves. 9: les secours des parents; enlevé. 10: spécialité; évaluer.

Verticalement.

A: rapide et inspiré. B: forme de pouvoir; force des vents; et existier; préposition. D: Salade; pronom. E: équerre; coquilles. F: dévotion pour tirer la soie des cocons; point cardinal. G: périodes. H: pas rapides; insupportable de Jerry. I: sur les épaules. J: isolé; éroder.

(Solution la semaine prochaine)

Solution de la grille N. 11:

Horizontalement.

1: redécouvre. 2: étonné; ou. 3: pot; clic. 4: praticien. 5: ombre; tuée. 6: relancer. 7: endosse. 8: en; cru. 9: rachats; us. 10: ces; étés.

Verticalement.

A: rapportera. B: énorme; na. C: dotable; ce. D: en; tranche. E: tiendras. F: on; coût. G: cités; se. H: voleurs. I: ruiné; émue. J: sa; se.

LE SAVIEZ-VOUS ?

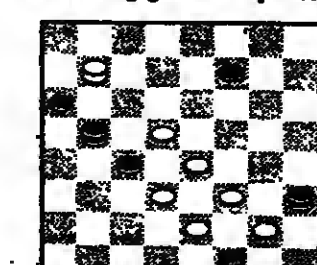
JEANNE D'ARC EPILEPTIQUE? Les voix appelant Jeanne d'Arc à buter les Anglais hors de France résultaient peut-être de crises d'épilepsie déclenchées par le son des cloches, selon les très sérieux travaux de deux neurologues américaines. «Plutôt qu'une psychopathe, comme l'ont affirmé certains, elle apparaît comme une fille victime de crises d'épilepsie, qui ont transformé ses hallucinations en puissante source de passion religieuse et de dévouement social», estiment-elles. Selon les deux chercheuses, "Jeanne la Bonne Lorraine" présentait une série de traits de caractère souvent rencontrés chez les patients souffrant de cette forme particulière d'épilepsie: le sentiment d'une destinée personnelle, un approfondissement de toutes les émotions, des sentiments de grandeur et de joie, un grand moralisme, de solides convictions religieuses et une absence de libido.

DENONCIATION. «Indiquez le nom, l'adresse où la plaque d'immatriculation des trafiquants et consommateurs de drogue; découpez le coupon et envoyez-le à la police». Ce procédé, pour le moins original, utilisé depuis quelques mois aux Etats-Unis par un journal de Virginie, fait recette. Les coupons sont apparus fin février dans le "Williamson Daily News" sous le titre: «Assez, j'en ai assez de voir la drogue dans mon voisinage». Depuis, 192 dénonciations sont effectivement parvenues aux services de police de la ville. Satisfait de son initiative, le journal a récemment publié de nouveaux appels à la délation, demandant cette fois de signaler plus particulièrement les "dealers" des établissements scolaires.

DAMES

Problème N. 12.

Les blancs gagnent en sept coups.



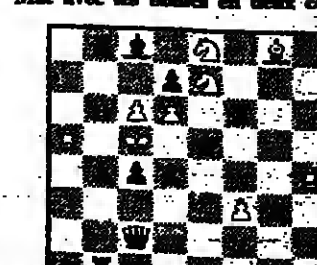
Solution du problème N. 11:

B. 19-15; N. 26-12; B. 10-13; N. 1-28; B. 13-8.

ECHecs

Problème N. 12.

Mat avec les blancs en deux coups.



Solution du problème N. 11:

D7-c8.

Men for a change

Men rarely share responsibility for family planning. And male decision-makers tend to give little thought to issues like maternal and infant mortality. But if men do not accept that family planning plays a major role in the survival of our planet, we are all heading for trouble, warns the 1990 State of World Population Report from the United Nations Population Fund. **Mark Timm** reports from Thailand.

THAI men have long played a central role in their country's family planning effort — as obstacles.

During the 1930s and 1940s in Thailand, under the dictatorship of Plaek Pibulsongkram, awards were given out on Mother's Day to women with large families. These pro-natalist policies, which held sway for decades, were driven by the notion that a large population was needed to build up military strength.

Only in the early 1970s did things change. The Thai government undertook to reduce the population growth rate by 0.5 percentage points a year. It now became clear that large population growth was slowing down development, and that poverty might be alleviated by reducing family size.

Thousands of village family planning volunteers were mobilized. And the campaign worked: birth-rates more than halved during the course of the next 15 years.

Today, nearly 70 per cent of married couples practice family planning and 95 per cent of couples do not want more than two children. Most cite economic reasons for their choice.

This success has made Thailand a family planning model for other developing countries. But it is women who can take the credit. Men remain a bastion of traditional resistance. In 1987, for example, 68 per cent of women were practicing some form of contraception, compared with only seven per cent of men.

The figures are skewed towards women — and not only in Thailand — partly because most contraceptive methods are designed for women. Equally important, however, is attitude. Whereas boys are coddled by most Thai parents, girls are taught from a young age to take responsibility. As adults, too, there is little incentive for Thai males to accept responsibility for family planning. Many con-

time to view family planning as exclusively a woman's concern.

When Thai girls grow up, however, they play a more active economic role in the family and in society as a whole than do their counterparts in many other societies. The main thing Thailand's family planning effort has been going for it, according to its chief architect Mechai Viravaidhya, is "the relatively strong personality of the Thai women."

"The men don't get in the way of women. That's probably been their most important role," says Mechai. "Even if there were a pill available to men, the women would still use their own pill because they wouldn't trust the men to use theirs."

It's tempting simply to write off family planning campaigns aimed at men and to direct resources at women, where they can be more effective. But this year's State of World Population Report, just released by the United Nations Population Fund, states quite clearly that more men must get involved in family planning if population growth is not to overwhelm the earth's resources. For world population to stabilize at 11 billion by the end of the next century, contraceptive use will have to increase worldwide by 64 per cent within the next 10 years. This will only be possible if men take a more responsible attitude.

Even Thailand, with its dramatically reduced birth-rate, has an extra one million new mouths to feed each year. And the number of women of reproductive age will increase from seven million to ten million over the next few years.

However, Thai family planning agencies already face a shortage of contraceptive materials and other resources. This is why the cheapest and most reliable form of contraception of all — the vasectomy or male sterilization — is being prom-



Gimmicks — such as getting elephants to distribute free condoms — may not always change male attitudes towards contraception. But they certainly arouse curiosity — and that is a start in trying to get men to share responsibility for family planning (UNFPA photo).

oted. Vasectomy takes 15 minutes, costs half as much as female sterilization — and is less likely to cause side-effects.

Mechai has already given Thailand a certain notoriety by staging mass vasectomy fairs each year on the birthday of Thailand's king. In 1987, a record was set when more than 2,000 men showed up at a field next to the royal palace for the free operation.

Despite the fanfare, however, far fewer men than women opt to be sterilized. The total number of men sterilized in 1987 was 16,447. The figure for women that same year was close to 140,000.

"Men don't do it (have a vasectomy) because they're not the ones to get pregnant," says Patama Bhromrut, the Ministry of Public Health's senior family planning promotion specialist.

Communication is another problem. Women can find out

about female sterilization during pregnancy from medical personnel or village midwives. But men retain their traditional attitudes and superstitions. A recent survey in Thailand's north-east showed that men were worried about rumors linking between the operation and impotence, poor health and work disability.

Now the Thai Association for Voluntary Sterilization is seeking to remove some of these prejudices and to enlighten men. One thing they have discovered is that men need support to go ahead with the operation — and not have second thoughts about it later. Most who had the operation were influenced by people they respected or trusted, like community leaders or friends or entertainers who had had the operation themselves. "Men should be motivated to like birth control," the survey concludes.

Women count, but are not counted

LONDON — If life is tough for women in developed countries, it is tougher in the Third World. The Human Development Report published by UNDP shows that Third World women get less of everything — except suffering.

Female children in developing countries get less food, less health care and less education. In some countries, more girl babies die before their fifth birthday than boys. Adult women get less education, less professional training and less pay even when they work longer hours than men. In some societies women have few or no property rights.

"Many countries are obviously ignoring the high social dividends of investing in women," observes Mahbub ul Haq, Special Adviser to UNDP Administrator William H. Draper, and principal author of the report. He points out that higher female literacy results in lower infant mortality, better family nutrition, reduced fertility and lower population growth. The report cites Bangladesh, where children of illiterate

mothers face five times higher child mortality than those of mothers with at least seven years of schooling.

Nothing illustrates the magnitude of female deprivation more than statistics for maternal mortality. The risk of death for an expectant mother in some developing countries is fifty times that in industrialized nations. "No other North-South gap in human development is wider than that between maternal mortality rates," says the report, describing it as "a symbol of the neglect of women's health in the Third World."

High mortality rates have devastating social consequences. Maternal mortality rates were 1,000 or more per 100,000 live births in Somalia, Bhutan, Ghana and Congo, and were over 400 per 100,000 in 14 more countries. Most of these countries have high infant mortality rates as well.

Neglect of women's well-being takes many forms and starts early, says the report. Female children are fed poorly, clothed

cheaply and often not sent to school nor taken to the doctor. Families in India's rural Punjab spend more than twice as much on the medical care of male infants as on that of female infants. And spending on clothing there is 40 per cent higher for boys than for girls.

Discrimination against women is reinforced in education. Even men living in rural areas have better literacy levels than the overall literacy rate for urban women. The female literacy rate for the developing world as a whole is now three-quarters that of the male. "The gap has narrowed slightly in the last three decades, but much progress remains to be made," the report says.

There still are 17 developing countries where twice as many boys attend secondary school as girls. In 16 countries, female primary school enrolment is less than two-thirds that of males.

The true extent of discrimination against women is not re-

vealed by official statistics. Much of the work that women do remains "invisible" in national accounting and censuses. Women typically work about 25 per cent longer hours than men. Much of their work — including household work and growing subsistence crops — is unpaid. But women's remuneration is less even when they are paid because of lower rates and because they usually wind up in low paid jobs such as agriculture and informal sectors.

The report for the first time calculates separate human development indices for males and females. The results are devastating. Even in those developing countries which have achieved high human development levels, gender discrimination is very pronounced.

The report recommends that more investment be made in women as an integral part of the human development strategies for the 1990s — UNDP press Release.

Journalist finds Jordan 'healthier'

By Joumana Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan is in a healthier situation because it has led the Middle East region in a democratic experiment, according to British historian Patrick Seale.

Seale, who is here with a U.N. journalists' delegation, said Jordan's 1988 decision to disengage itself from the West Bank had resulted in a better Jordanian-Palestinian relationship and gave the initiative to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is now seeking dialogue with Israel through Egyptian help.

Seale said the U.S. had a "great responsibility" towards revitalising the Middle East peace process, "especially as (it is) today the only power in the world."

However, it was also "very important for the Arabs to speak with one voice to impress on Washington the urgency of the situation," Seale told the Jordan Times.

Seale, a journalist and author, cited several factors as adding urgency to efforts to settle the Middle East conflict, including the nuclear missile proliferation in the region, the Israeli rightist trend towards extremism and the massive influx of Soviet Jews into Israel and "inevitably into the occupied territories." According to Seale, the "collapse" of Soviet power and the continuing reluctance of the United States to involve itself deeper in the peace process are the main factors that hinder the achievement of peace in the Middle East region.

Mahmoud El Said, head of the delegation, which is currently on a visit to Jordan on the third leg of a trip which will include Egypt, said a visit to the Middle East was enough to convince any journalist of the realities on the ground and transmit it to the world at large.

"Our visit provides the opportunity to high level journalists from various European and North American countries to learn all the facts about the situation in the Middle East and various aspects of the Palestinian question," El Said told the Jordan Times.

"There is an urgent need for a comprehensive peace settlement in the

Middle East," he said. The delegation was briefed on Jordan's position by senior officials, including Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddin and director of the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry Ahmad Qatani. The delegation will be received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan before its departure for Cairo Sunday.

El Said, an Egyptian who works for the U.N. Public Information Department, said he supported the Arab call for an international peace conference on the Middle East. "Every year the U.N. contacts all the parties," he said. "All Arab sides (except Lebanon whose official functions are limited due to the civil war there) receive the delegation," the journalist said. "But Israel always refuses to receive them or allow them into the occupied territories."

Mr. Michel Roy, a journalist for Montreal's L'Actualité, who visited Jordan several times, lamented the stagnated efforts for peace in the Middle East. "I hope there will be progress in the solution for the Palestinian problem, and the Americans would have some influence on Israel strong enough to change the course," he said. "It is very important for a journalist living in America to come over here to understand and feel the problem."

Roy also said he was pleased with the recent changes in Jordan, including the Kingdom's moves to resolve its economic crisis, the democratisation process and freedom of the press. "The people in America must know and be well informed (of the situation) to be in a position to pressure their governments and leaders" into striving for a just solution in the Middle East, he added.

Mr. Keitaro Hirayama of Japan's NHK television said Tokyo was supportive of a "peace solution based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 respecting the Palestinian rights for self-determination, including their right to establish an independent state and also the recognition of the PLO as a representative organisation of the Palestinian people."

The journalists are in the Middle East on a fact-finding mission arranged every year by the United Nations General Assembly. The head of the delegation is expected to draft a report on the team's findings and submit it to the U.N. General Secretariat as a document to be presented to the General Assembly.

Arab turning point expected at Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)

was "trying to bridge the gap" between American and the Arab, particularly the Palestinian, positions by convincing the Arab summit not make a specific reference to an international peace conference.

"This would have been a disaster," a PLO official commented. "The Arab and Palestinian people are expecting a confrontation strategy not more concessions," he added.

Despite Egyptian reservations on strongly worded resolutions which might provoke the U.S. observers believe that several

draft resolutions, in essence, presented a spirit of confrontation. They cite the resolutions concerning Iraq and Jordan in particular as reflecting this new "spirit." They noted that the draft resolution concerning Jordan clearly linked Israel's settlement policies and Jewish immigration with the Kingdom's national security. The draft resolution, describing Israel's settlement policy as posing a serious threat to Jordan's national security, was viewed here as pressure on the U.S. to take a firm position over its financial and military support for Israel.

The summit is also expected unanimously approve a resolu-

tion obliging all countries to support, by all means, Jordan's steadfastness.

No information was available whether this resolution would be translated into concrete financial aid for Jordan.

The draft resolution on Iraq constitutes a clear challenge to the U.S. in more than one count. — It stresses Iraq's right to defend itself by "any means... if it is attacked."

— Second, it affirms Iraq's right "to develop its technological abilities."

If these two resolutions are passed, they would be the strongest Arab reaction to Western criticism of Iraq's possession

of chemical weapons, according to analysts.

In fact, Western criticism of Iraq's possession of chemical weapons, and the recent uproar over alleged Iraqi attempts to boost its arsenal, had prompted the Arab foreign ministers to include for the first time a whole section dedicated to technology. The section, which was supported by Egypt, stressed "the right of all Arab countries to possess and develop advanced technology."

The Arab foreign ministers, however, recommended to their leaders a clear resolution calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons and other lethal weapons from Middle East.

Security Council adjourns Geneva session

(Continued from page 1)

would not oppose such a mission. Picketing did not speak in the council.

Arafat, in an unprecedented speech to the council Friday, called for a U.N. emergency force to be sent to the area to protect the Arab population, and urged sanctions against Israel.

A U.S. official made plain Saturday that Washington would veto any council resolution containing those points.

"There are obviously elements of the speech we don't agree with," the official said on condition of anonymity.

Such a team would include representatives of several countries rather than personal representatives of Perez De Cuellar and would presumably mount a wider probe than a special envoy.

Bahrain called the meeting after an Israeli gunman shot dead eight Palestinian workers in the occupied territories Sunday and

16 more Arabs died and 500 were wounded as Palestinians took to the streets in protest in the days which followed.

Diplomats said it was possible something could be agreed next week in New York, but Arab delegates had hoped for concrete action this weekend so that Arafat would not have to travel empty-handed to the Arab summit starting in Baghdad Monday.

Egypt proposed that ambassadors of Security Council members France, Canada and Ethiopia investigate the violence, but Israel made clear it would reject any action under council auspices.

"We do not accept Security Council jurisdiction in this matter. Anything related to security (in the occupied territories) is of our province and of our province alone," Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a news conference.

"You (the United States) have completely spoiled your naughty

Israeli baby," Arafat told a separate news conference. "Does the United States take orders from Israel?"

Arab diplomats said the United States at first supported the sending of French, Canadian and Ethiopian envoys but backed down because of Israeli objections.

Arafat said he noted a shift by President George Bush's administration in the long-standing U.S. support of Israel but added: "This change should be translated into practical steps."

He said Palestinians were losing patience with the heavy toll Israel was taking of them and that Washington still sent Israel huge amounts of aid.

On Friday, France called for a fact-finding mission to the territories and the Soviet Union suggested the stationing of permanent observers. Britain also agreed to consider a greater U.N. role to ease the strife.

Several Arab delegations, in Saturday's debate called for U.N. protection of Palestinians.

Like Arafat, Abdurridha Abdullah Khoury of the United Arab Emirates called on the United States to pressure Israel towards a Middle East peace settlement.

Bangladesh delegate Harun Ur-Rashid likened Israeli policies to fascism.

By far the most violent attack on Israel Saturday came from Iran, which promised all-out support in the "struggle against the Zionist entity so as to dismantle this source of mischief, instability and aggression."

At a press conference, Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Sheikholeslam termed the Jewish state "illegal" and reiterated that Iran rejects any proposals for an international peace conference.

He called Israel a "cancerous tumor" and said its government "should be eliminated."

Uprising leaders call for attacks on soldiers

(Continued from page 1)

and bread and some parents were letting children sneak out to shops.

Israel lifted the Gaza curfew for two hours Thursday so residents could buy food.

Sunday's killings sparked

several days of furious protests in the occupied territories, in which 16 Arabs were killed and almost 500 wounded.

In the West Bank, about 100,000 Arabs in Hebron and surrounding refugee camps remained under curfew Saturday.

Clashes between troops and stone-throwing demonstrators broke out in the West Bank when curfews were lifted in some areas Saturday, Palestinian sources said. They said soldiers shot and wounded three Palestinians in Jenin.

They said there were also clashes in the cities of Nabulus and Ramallah but no one was injured. Troops arrested three Palestinians in Bethlehem.

In Arab East Jerusalem, police fired live ammunition to disperse demonstrators.

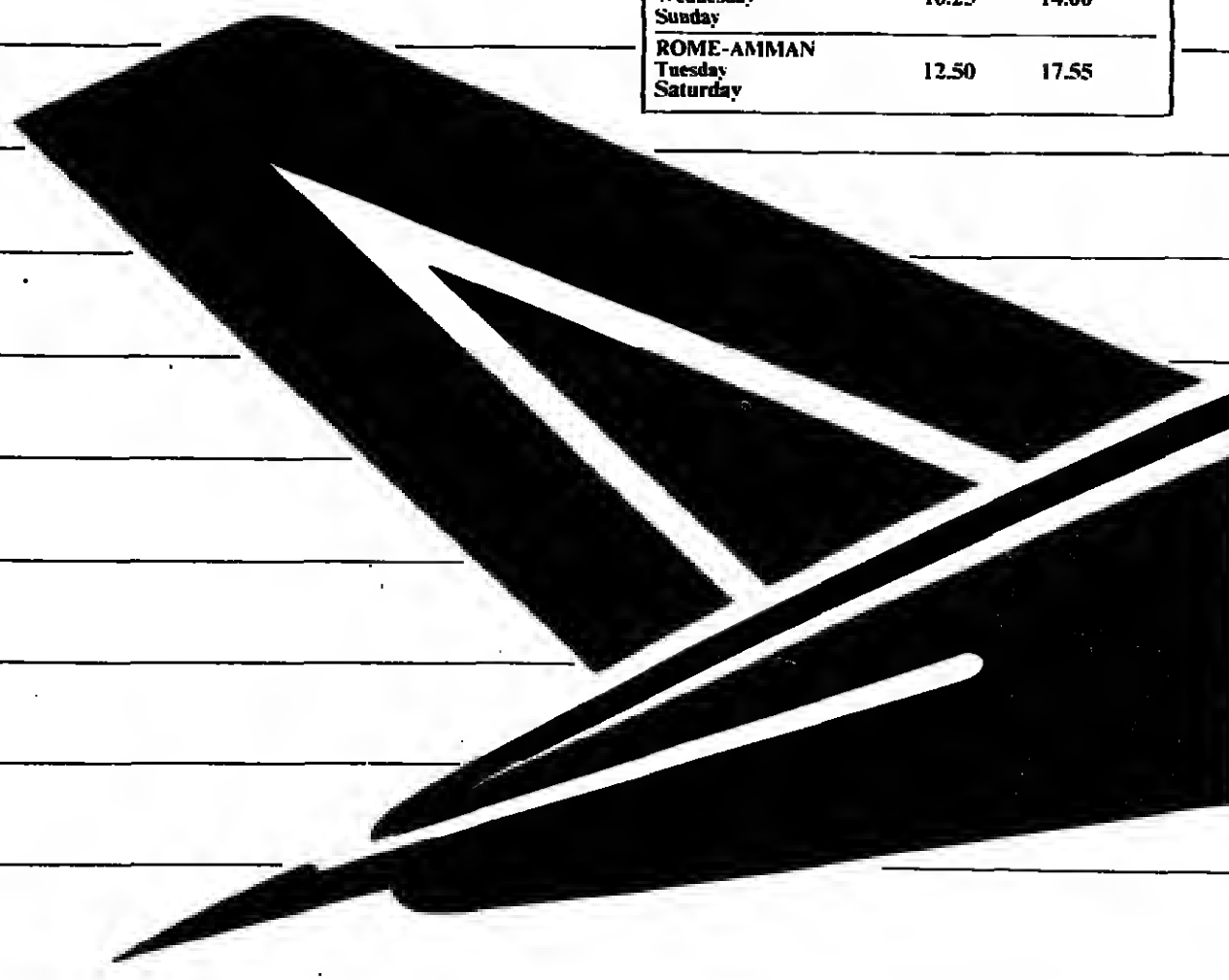
APPOINTMENT IN ITALY

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Bahrain-based entity launches issue of 25 million shares at \$14 each

ABC shares go on international market

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

BAHRAIN — The Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) and its global coordinators Saturday formally launched its offer of 25 million shares at \$14 each in the first-ever issue of shares of a Bahrain-based Arab banking institution to the public regardless of nationality.

The ABC and its coordinators — Credit Suisse First Boston Limited, the Consulting Centre for Finance and Investment and ABC Investment and Services Company — announced the \$14 price against a book value at the end of 1989 of \$15.33.

According to a press release, the shares were being made available both through a private place regionally and internationally and a public offering in Bahrain.

The issue is unique since ABC is the first Bahrain-based entity to be given permission to offer its shares to investors regardless of nationality. The Bahrain offering began Saturday and will end June 14 and is co-ordinated by ABC Investment and Services Co. The Saudi based Consulting Centre for Finance and Investment is co-ordinating the private placement in the remainder of the Arab World and Credit Suisse First Boston Limited in London is co-ordinating the private placement in the rest of the world.

The global coordinators have

assembled a management syndicate consisting of 34 prominent financial institutions originating from 16 different countries. The management syndicate has fully covered the share issue and will be proceeding to place the shares with their clients over the next few weeks.

The net proceeds of the issue are expected to be used, among other things, to support the further expansion of the ABC group's activities, particularly in Europe and in the Arab World. To this end, part of the proceeds will be used in capitalising a subsidiary banking operation in the European Community (EC) that would acquire and integrate ABC's branch operations in the EC and certain of the U.K. subsidiary operations, in preparation for the economic integration of Europe in 1992.

ABC is the only bank in the Arab World to have obtained investment grade ratings from any of the recognised international rating services. Standard and

Poor's Corporation has assigned ratings of "A" for ABC's long-term debt and "A-2" for its short term debt.

The lead managers for the issue are: ABC Investment and Services Co.; Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait; Olayan Finance Company; Credit Suisse First Boston Limited; the Consulting Centre for Finance and Investment.

The co-lead managers are: Arab Bank; Libyan Arab Foreign Bank; Arab Investment Company; BNP Capital Markets Limited; Kidder, Peabody International Limited; Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company; Merrill Lynch International Limited; Morgan Stanley International PLC and Tunis International Bank.

Co-managers are: Al Ufaa Arab International Bank; Agicorp; Arab Financial Services; Arab International Bank; Banque Francaise de l'Orient; Gulf International Bank; Nisicorp; Okasan International; Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank N.V.; B.A.I.I. Sheppard's Investment Advisers Ltd; Banco Arabe Espanole; Banco Atlantico; Daiwa Securities Co.; Daiwa Europe Limited; Girozentrale and Bank der Oesterreichischen Sparkassen; Klein, Benson Limited; Morgan Securities Limited; Paribas Limited; and Swiss Bank Corporation.



Thousands of Argentines recently stage a protest against new economic measures adopted by President Carlos Menem.

IMF defreezes aid to Argentina

WASHINGTON (AP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) will let Argentina draw \$240 million of a \$1.7-billion loan that the fund suspended last February, according to an IMF spokesman.

The fund was suspended when President Carlos Menem's government failed to meet agreed conditions.

The spokesman, who gave the information Friday on condition he not be named, said Argentina's conditions for this year have been revised. He would not disclose them. He added that the drawings had been permitted because of the forceful policies of the government.

He said Argentina could use part of the \$240 million to buy back some of its \$60-billion debt

at a discount. It owes about \$40 billion to banks. Last week its debt to banks could be bought on the New York market for 14 cents on the dollar.

The fund's loan can also be used to support other arrangements that Argentina may make with the banks that hold the debt, to reduce the \$4 billion in payments due them every year. One official said the amount available for these purposes would be more than 25 per cent of the \$240 million drawing.

Argentina has fallen behind on its payments and owes another \$6 billion in arrears.

The spokesman said future drawings could also be used for reduction of Argentine debt and payments. Whether future drawings are permitted will depend on

whether the fund decides that Menem's government is meeting the new targets.

His government has been following an austerity programme of the kind that the fund usually makes a condition for its aid. Menem has cut the budget, lifted price controls and is planning to privatise companies owned by the state.

Inflation has been running at a rate of more than 100 per cent a year and about 40 per cent of the work force is jobless.

Now that the drawing has been approved, the way is open for talks between the Argentine government and creditor banks, under a debt reduction plan proposed by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady.

Polish rail strike eases ahead of local elections

WARSAW (Agencies) — A week-old rail strike showed signs of easing as workers unblocked key lines and sent negotiators to Warsaw Saturday on the eve of landmark local elections.

A strike spokesman said there was still time to agree on a peace formula with the government before the elections, the first fully-free nationwide vote in Poland for half a century.

The strike has grown into the biggest challenge to the Solidarity-led government which took power from the Communists last year and launched tough austerity policies on Jan. 1.

Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki said Friday that it threatened Poland's still fragile democracy, and that meeting the strikers' pay demands would be suicidal for the economy.

Strikers freed passenger traffic via the Baltic port of Gdynia and unblocked the central junctions of Bydgoszcz and Torun late Friday, and hunger strikers ended their fast in the coastal city of

Slupsk, where the protests began. But the strikers continued to stop freight entering and leaving all Polish ports. Rail officials have said the strike is hitting exports of coal, the country's main foreign currency earner and provider of eight per cent of its export revenue.

A railway spokesman, quoted by the official PAP news agency, said 72 passenger trains were cancelled Saturday, compared with about 80 Friday.

A strike delegation arrived in Warsaw for talks after the government refused to send negotiators to meet them in Slupsk.

"There is a chance for an agreement in the Warsaw talks in time for Sunday's local elections," strike spokesman Jerzy Sadka said.

Some railway managers have been sacked since the strike began but the government has refused to meet demands for a 20 per cent wage rise, giving railwaymen 10 per cent more than the national monthly average of

932,000 zloties (98¢).

Mazowiecki said such a course would waste months of struggle and undermine economic austerity measures aimed at defeating hyperinflation and building a market-based economy.

"Deputy Transport Minister Ewaryst Waligorski told Polish radio that pay talks would be possible only after the strike had ended and that the government had taken stock of the economy's performance in the first five months of the year.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa has said the industrial dispute could lead to civil war and has accused Alfred Miodowicz, chairman of Poland's biggest trade union federation OPZZ, of trying to disrupt the reforms by backing the strike.

Solidarity, in a statement issued by its national leaders, urged its members to abandon the strike.

"Today we appeal to the striking railwaymen who are members of our union to give up the strike," it said.

American analysts predict tough going for Gorbachev

By Thomas Ginsberg
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Leading U.S. analysts are offering some of their most pessimistic assessments yet of Mikhail Gorbachev's future in the wake of an economic reform proposal most experts already consider a disaster.

"(Gorbachev's) destiny is linked to this price reform," said Judy Shelton, a Stanford University economist and author of "The Coming Soviet Crash."

Calling the proposed tripling of basic food prices untenable, Shelton predicted Friday: "I think the day the bread price hike takes effect, he'll be out."

Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov has announced plans for a public referendum on an economic plan that would raise prices of most products by next year, including a tripling of bread prices by Jan. 1, 1991.

The experts predicted spreading strikes and devastating runs on stores and hoarding in anticipation of the price hikes.

"I would be prepared to say that this moves him one step closer" to falling from power, said Harvard University historian Marshall Goldman.

The economic plan which would allow many Soviet enterprises and properties to be bought and sold, as well as go bankrupt or close. While far more radical than previously expected, Western experts nearly unanimously considered the plan too timid and said it could have disastrous results if voters approve it.

"Getting halfway there may be worse than never even starting," said Ed Hewitt, a Soviet analyst

at the Brookings Institute Research Centre. Soviet polls have indicated that about half of Soviet citizens would support a free market system. But it was unclear whether they would vote for skyrocketing prices and unprecedented unemployment based on promises of better times by a government that, by its own admission, lacks solid popular support.

"He's lost credibility. His situation has deteriorated so much," Goldman said in a telephone interview. "The methods that he should have used — markets, family farming, joint ventures — have gotten off to such a bad start."

Hewitt said he was less worried about Gorbachev's personal position than about his ability to govern after the referendum, no date for which has been set.

"The one mistake that we've made over the last few years is that we've underestimated him," Hewitt said. "But I'm sure that the economic reform package will not work. If they don't pull it back and do something more serious, they're going to do more damage than from five years of wandering in the wilderness."

Shelton said the price hikes were intended to raise money to eliminate the Soviet budget deficit, estimated at anywhere between \$40 billion and \$165 billion.

"This is not a market plan. Their prices always have been fixed. Now they will just be fixed at the market rate," she said.

Shelton said Gorbachev was caught between the need to convert quickly to a market system and a fear of popular unrest over high unemployment and prices that would result. He chose a middle route of retaining control of higher prices.

Ivory Coast, deep in debt, gives in to wage demands

By Michael Roddy
Reuters

ABIDJAN — Ivory Coast, which last month suspended an austerity programme that would have slashed wages, seems caught in a spiral of pay demands making it more difficult to make ends meet.

The government of President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, unable to repay its \$14-billion foreign debt, appears ready to satisfy the wage demands of military recruits and police to buy labour peace.

Bankers don't know where the cash will come from and diplomats think a bad precedent is being set.

"Where will the money come from — that is the question everyone is asking," one Western banker said. "So far these are merely promises to pay... but he (Houphouet-Boigny) hasn't got any more money."

The troubled West African cocoa-growing state, its economy punctured by low world cocoa prices, has agreed to pay demands of striking military recruits, says it is studying similar demands from police and could face more strikes from dockers, electrical workers and customs agents, among others.

"The forestry workers, the customs workers, the electric company — they're all going to do it," a diplomat said. "Anyone who has any means of applying pressure — it's only

normal." A proposed austerity plan intended to meet International Monetary Fund (IMF) spending guidelines was dropped last month following the most violent protests since independence from France in 1960.

Diplomats, bankers and other observers think that without an economic master plan and some sort of agreement with the IMF that would free up billions of dollars in foreign aid. The country is adrift.

"The type of leadership that the president seems to favour at this moment almost seems designed to incite the different sectors to make demands," a diplomat said. "If one group gets what it wants then another will try it."

Political infighting to succeed Houphouet-Boigny, 84, is also making the country difficult to govern, diplomats and other sources said.

A political battle seems to be shaping up between Houphouet-Boigny's heir apparent, National Assembly President Henri Konan-Bedie, and Defence Minister Jean Konan-Banny.

Both men are political veterans and both made major speeches recently to boost their images.

But succession is complicated by the president's agreement last month, in the face of protests, to permit multi-party democracy for the first time



Felix Houphouet-Boigny

since independence. Since then at least nine parties have filed for recognition and the president's own party, the Democratic Party of Ivory Coast (PDICI), appears set to be overhauled.

A source close to the PDICI said most of the top party bosses will be sacked and younger replacements will be named at a party congress in the near future.

"Within the PDICI it's obvious that people are starting to position themselves," a diplomat said. "They're all getting into position for the starting gate."

World Bank, U.S. head for collision over China loans

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States looks headed for a confrontation with the World Bank over the organisation's plans to resume full-scale lending to China, according to bank sources.

"So far, neither side is backing down," one source said.

The World Bank has put forward two loans to China for approval for its board Tuesday, even though the United States has clearly stated its opposition to one of them.

The bank cut off full-scale lending to China last June after the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy students in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Largely at the insistence of the United States, it has restricted its lending to China since then to credits which meet basic human needs.

Washington has said that it can support one of the two loans before the board next week — a \$300 million credit for tree planting to combat deforestation — because it meets basic human needs.

But the United States is opposed to the other loan — a \$150 million credit to upgrade roads and inland waterways in Jiangsu province — because Washington does not think it meets the basic human needs of the Chinese people.

"We do not believe that the Jiangsu provincial transport loans meet... (the) criteria," the State

Department spokesman said.

The United States does not have enough votes on its own to veto the loan, but could block the credit if it gains support from other rich nations in the Group of Seven (G-7) — Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan and West Germany.

Despite speculation within the bank that the United States had lost the backing of some of its fellow G-7 members, the State Department spokesman said the group was still committed to restricting credits to those that meet basic human needs.

"At the moment, we're all together," said one official from another G-7 country.

World Bank President Barber Conable has "no intention of withdrawing" the proposed loans, said Peter Riddinger, a spokesman for Conable.

Of the total, \$400 million dollars would be lent at less than one per cent annual interest.

Conable has said the bank lends only on economic considerations, and the delay of \$780 million worth of loans after the brutal suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations last June was to gain time to look into the economic effects of the action.

Pastor Sison, a Bank Asia specialist, said the projected \$300 million for planting trees in 15 Chinese provinces would be the biggest loan ever granted for forestry.

Africans owe \$225.6b

RABAT (R) — Africa's foreign debt has become unbearable, ballooning to \$225.6 billion at the end of 1989, according to the African Development Bank.

The bank's annual report, released in Rabat, said the continent's debt service ratio tripled during the 1980s to 31.5 per cent of exports.

The total amount of debt soared 40 per cent in the last five years.

Despite reschedulings and moratoriums "repayments remain high and appear to be unbearable," said the report, to be presented to the ADB's annual general meeting in Ivory Coast May 29.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, May 26, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	668.0	672.0
Pound Sterling	1125.2	1136.0
Deutsche mark	309.9	309.3
Swiss franc	469.3	472.1
French franc	118.0	118.7
Japanese yen (for 100)	447.3	450.0
Dutch guilder	332.9	333.0
Swedish crown	110.2	110.9
Italian lira (for 100)	54.1	54.4
Belgian franc (for 10)	192.3	193.5

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MAY 27, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Many changes are in effect today and it's up to you to go along with them tactically and to show that you are able to handle conditions that don't suit a mutual purpose.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Full speed ahead now in the company of unique and bizarre persons to gain the various personal desires which mean so much to you, so much action is urged.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Now you are able to bring your finest abilities to the attention of those who have interest and the power to make them successful reality.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Welcome with open arms any newcomers or interesting persons of different views from yours as you can profit immeasurably from them.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Seek out businesses and experts in your line of activity and get the up to date suggestions they can give to aid to your prosperity.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can now present that project that means so much to you and that has unusual features to one of considerable influence who can make it a reality.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't think you have reached the limit of success possible in your

activities since today can bring some new ideas by which you can expand horizons.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your day not only to have a wonderful time at the outlets that most intrigue you but also to make appointments for future entertainments.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) At last you have a good day to state your ideas at home which you have been hesitant about doing and should get a favorable or beneficial response.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think about each and every person you would like to hear from and have in your life in the days ahead and communicate with them in an exciting way.

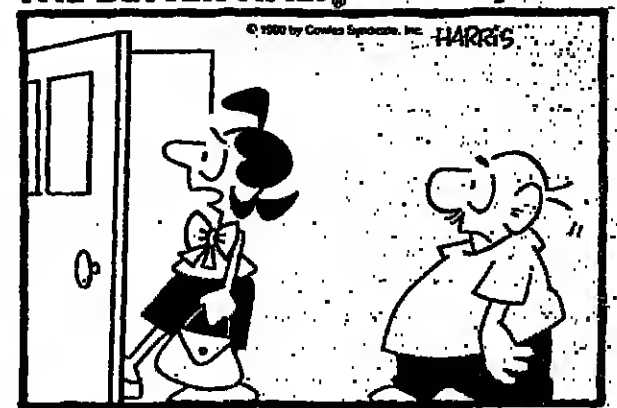
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your mind should be preoccupied on your abundance and how it can be increased by more modern and up to date methods or efficiencies.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Now you have the day to go after what you want of a personal nature with courage, confidence, conviction and some extra elbow grease.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Today is the day when you are bubbling over with good ideas for adding to your success and happiness so make notations of them and start action.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"I have some papers to catch up on at work. I'll be home by 1997."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PHOCE
INGYL
BILDOY
COYTUR



Print answer here: " " " " " "

Yesterday's Jumbles: MOUND TWICE MAYLAW SPORTY
Answer: Although it won't necessarily make you rich, you might get this from an intelligent oyster — A PEARL OF WISDOM

THE Daily Crossword

by Jeanne Wilson



ACROSS	1 Chef's need	10 Fishing reel	13 Myth	14 Actress	15 Bituminous	16 Och.	17 More pleasant	18 Aware of	19 Puzzle theme	22 Roman and Rafter	24 Churn	27 Nile city	30 Nooses	31 Trip to W. Germany?	35 It's kin	36 "A vote — I"	37 "Mighty — A Rose"	38 St. Lo cellmates?	41 Furling rail	43 Not waterfowl	44 Looked sullen	45 Freberg	47 Char	48 Good golf game?	54 Rod	55 Parts	56 Unlustrous word	58 Kind	59 Get up	60 Cant	61 Arbor	62 B. post	63 Graf —	8 Munich mixer	9 Melan	11 Vows	12 Arafat's gp.	15 Ship group	20 Conflicts	21 Saarinen	24 Guineas	25 Crayon	26 Crazy as a	27 — Island, NY	28 Colonizers	29 — Got You Under —	31 "Art" e.g.	32 Landred	33 Big blow?	34 — out barely made it	35 Surfer's turt	39 Blazard	40 Auberjoms of TV	45 Ladle	46 Claw	47 Sanctified	48 Revealing picture	49 Repeating	54 Links gp.	57 Soroma summer	51 Lamb	52 Use redneck	53 Being	54 Links gp.	57 Soroma summer
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Tyson leaves hiding to resume training

LAS VEGAS (AP) — When last seen in public with boxing gloves on, Mike Tyson was lying on the canvas in the Tokyo Dome before 40,000 shocked Japanese and one jubilant Buster Douglas.

In the stilling heat of a five-minute fight, Tyson held his head in his hands, breaking his veil of secrecy to go five rounds with two sparring partners in front of a handful of writers and photographers.

"I'm kind of almost glad to see you guys," he told the writers. "I must be a hero. I can't wait to get back in front of a crowd again."

If Tyson is a hero, he didn't show it before Thursday's workout at the Golden Gloves Gym.

Aside from mandatory appearances at three press conferences promoting his June 16 comeback fight against Henry Tillman, Tyson's entourage has kept him sheltered and his workouts private.

Even his sparring partners weren't quite sure they should be talking about the former champion.

"It's been kind of hush-hush around here," Refus Hadley told a writer. "I don't know if it's okay for me to talk to you."

The secrecy had some questioning both his state of mind and his state of conditioning following the devastating knockout loss at the hands of Douglas. Tyson's moodiness at the press conferences only added to the speculation.

"I was really never depressed," Tyson said after his workout. "It's nothing to cry over. You just pick yourself back up and brush yourself off and come back."

Tyson appeared trim and fit as he worked three four-minute rounds against upcoming heavyweight Rodolfo Marín and two more rounds with Hadley, a sparring partner he has used since 1977.

With a trio of trainers — including newly installed Richie Giachetti — looking on, the former champion managed to land some good shots against the two fighters but took some as well during the workout.

"His intensity level is a lot higher than I've ever seen it," Hadley said, still trying to catch his breath after the session. "He gets in there and doesn't hold back anything. That's the mark of a true champion."

Giachetti barked most of the instructions to Tyson, with an occasional command from Jay Bright, who along with Aaron Snowell was roundly criticized for not preparing Tyson properly for Douglas and for a weak performance in his corner.

Giachetti insisted the three trainers were equals, although he appeared more equal than the other two.

"This is team Tyson," said Giachetti, who trained former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes. "Everyone is here for the same reason."

Mize leads Atlanta Golf

MARIETTA, Georgia (AP) — Former Masters champion Larry Mize shot a 3-under-par 69 to build a one-shot lead in the second round of the Atlanta Golf Classic Friday.

Mize had a 9-under-par 135 total for his two trips over the hilly, 7,018-yard Atlanta country club course to hold the lead he had shared with Australian Wayne Grady and upstart Steve Lowery in the opening round.

"I'm pretty happy with the way I played," Mize said. "I struck the ball fairly solid."

He held a one-shot advantage over Howard Twitty, who shot his second 68 in a quest for his first victory since winning the greater Hartford Open 10 years ago.

Poor chip shots over the green cost Mize his only bogey, on the seventh and ninth holes, but he capped the day with a 15-foot birdie putt on the 18th.

"Larry always seems to be the same, very upbeat and positive," said playing partner Cortis Strange, the two-time U.S. Open champion who rallied from Thursday's 73 with a 67 Friday, leaving him five shots off the pace.

"He's playing good now," Strange said of Mize.

South African Nick Price, who tied for second last week in the Colonial, was alone in third place with a 69 for 137.

Morris Hataky had the best round of the first two days, a 7-under 65.

Phoenix slows Portland

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns made sure the Portland Trail Blazers had no more comeback magic Friday night.

Tom Chambers scored 15 of his 24 points as the Suns built a 30-point lead in the first half and went on to beat the Trail Blazers 123-89, cutting their lead to 2-1 in the Western Conference finals.

Phoenix, which blew a 22-point lead in game 2 at Portland Wednesday night, plays host again Sunday in game 4 of the best-of-7 series.

The Suns took a first-quarter advantage of 40-18, the most opening-period points ever allowed by Portland in a playoff game. Phoenix built 61-31 and 70-40 leads in second period en route to a 71-43 halftime margin.

The Trail Blazers got no closer than 25 in the second half. The Suns' largest lead was 103-57 with 1:06 left in the third quarter, putting Portland in jeopardy of losing by the largest margin ever in an NBA playoff game.

Minneapolis beat St. Louis 133-75 in 1956, but the Trail Blazers' reserves used an 18-0 run in the fourth period to make the final score more respectable.

It was Portland's worst playoff loss ever and the second-biggest postseason victory for Phoenix.

Chambers was 11-for-13 from the field and Jeff Hornacek scored 17 points on 8-for-10 shooting. Kevin Johnson also had 17 points for the Suns, and Jerome Kersey led the Trail Blazers with 16.

Phoenix made 78 per cent of its shots in the opening period — 18 of 23.

Portland, which shot only 33 per cent from the field in the first period (nine of 27), scored the game's first basket and never led again.

The Suns used a 10-0 run for a 16-4 lead with 8:20 remaining in the first quarter. Chambers had six of his 10 points in the period during the final three minutes.

Eddie Johnson's hook and two free throws capped a 10-0 spurt for a 50-22 Phoenix lead 4:11 into the second period.

The Suns led by 30 points twice — 61-31 on Chambers' baseline jumper 4:26 before halftime and 70-40 on Kurt Rambis' jumper with 42 seconds left.

Terry Porter, held to five first-half points, hit a 3-point goal with 35 seconds remaining to make it 71-43 at intermission.

The Suns shot 77 per cent from the field in the first half (30 of 39) to Portland's 40 per cent (20 of 50).

The hobbling Chicago Bulls

Swedes eye French Open

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Sweden's domination of men's tennis has faded but Stefan Edberg is confident he can become no. 1 by winning the French Open.

"I know I have an excellent chance to make it," says Edberg, a finalist on Roland Garros' clay courts in Paris last year and the top-seeded this time in the absence of top-ranked Ivan Lendl.

Edberg, 24, and fast-improving Magnus Gustafsson, 23, who is seeded no. 15 in the tournament and ranked a career-high 20th, are the only seeded Swedes in Paris.

It's a tournament of Swedish men have dominated more than any other grand slam event, making 13 of 16 singles finals since 1974 and winning nine of them. In the 1980s, Swedes made all but one of 10 finals and won half of them.

Edberg, who won one Wimbledon and two Australian Open titles in addition to two grand slam doubles crowns since 1985, lost last year's French Open final to Michael Chang.

A Swede has not been ranked no. 1 for 17 months. Mats Wilander held the top spot for four months after beating Lendl in the U.S. Open in 1988.

In the last two years, the number of Swedes ranked in the top 30 has dropped by 50 per cent.

While other nations have copied Sweden's successful junior programme, Swedish officials and coaches say recruiting in their own country has slowed among the early teens. Too little money is spent on top prospects, some say.

The Swede's recent glory days in men's world tennis started with Bjorn Borg, who won an unprecedented five straight Wimbledon titles, the last in 1980. He won the endurance test at Roland Garros in Paris six times, the last in 1981.

Then came Edberg, Wilander, doubles star Anders Jarryd and others, inspired by Borg and a new junior programme.

The Swedish construction firm Siab sponsored the venture and

coach John-Arander Sjogren picked Wilander, Jarryd, Joakim Nyström and Hans Simonsson in 1981. When the programme expired two years later, this gang of four had won a combined 16 grand prix titles, including 13 by Wilander.

But in the first 50 tournaments of 1990, there were no Swedish players in the boys top 10 in the world junior rankings, the International Tennis Federation said this week.

The last time Sweden had a golden year in tennis was in 1988. Wilander and Edberg completed a Swedish grand slam, Wilander winning the Australian, French and U.S. opens and Edberg capturing Wimbledon. A total of 17 grand prix singles titles went to Swedish players that year.

In 1989, only two grand prix titles plus a victory by Edberg in the season-ending Masters were won by Swedes.

Jarryd still is one of the world's top doubles players, having won all four grand slam titles with different partners and more than 40 other tournaments. Nyström, also formerly in the top 10 in singles but now ranked in the low 30s, has been plagued by injuries in recent years and is now playing qualifying tournaments.

Kent Carlsson, a clay court specialist whose highest career ranking was sixth in 1983, recently retired at the age of 22 due to chronic knee problems. Wilander, who hasn't played tennis since March, has not decided yet if he will play Wimbledon this year. He has committed himself to only one tournament this summer, the Swedish Open at Bastad.

Wilander denies he is quitting the game and recently said he intends to stay on the circuit another two years.

Meanwhile, tennis can be a game of luck and unlucky bounces. Going into the French Open, the ball seems to be bouncing better for the women than the men.

The two-week grand slam tournament, which begins Monday at Roland Garros, finds the

women's tour in ascendancy and the men's circuit in disarray.

The women's game is alive with compelling storylines:

Steffi Graf, the virtually unbeatable player of the past few years, finds her match in 16-year-old Monica Seles. Martina Navratilova, the 33-year-old former champion, fights to stay near the top. The 14-year-old American sensation Jennifer Capriati threatens to surpass them all before she's reached high school.

None of the men can approach Seles' winning streak of 24 straight matches and five consecutive tournaments, let alone the 66-match run that Graf had going before being stopped by Seles at the German Open last week.

"We have a lot more marquee players now," says Navratilova. "The field is a lot more open than it was a couple years ago. There are a lot more players who can win tournaments."

The men's ATP tour, meanwhile, has been plagued by injuries, late withdrawals, controversy over appearance money and a dearth of superstars.

Ivan Lendl, Boris Becker, Stefan Edberg, Andre Agassi, Mats Wilander and John McEnroe have played sparingly. Last year's sensation, French Open champion Michael Chang, has won only two matches all year.

"Tennis is in a period of transition right now," says Mark Miles, the new chief executive officer of the Association of Tennis

Press praises Gullit's performance

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Dutch newspapers Friday pronounced soccer star Ruud Gullit "ready for the World Cup" after his role in AC Milan's victory in the European Champion's Cup.

AC Milan's 1-0 win against Benfica Wednesday marked Gullit's second full match since recovering from a series of operations on his right knee, and followed speculation that the 27-year-old striker might not be fit enough to play in the world championship, which kicks off June 8.

Midfielder Frank Rijkaard, another Dutch player, scored AC Milan's goal.

"Gullit is ready for the World Cup," headlined the Rotterdam newspaper Algemeen Dagblad. "His high spirits and ease spread to the whole AC Milan team,"

the paper said.

"He has proved he is back to scratch physically and that his instinct hasn't deserted him," wrote De Telegraaf, the nation's largest daily.

The finishing touch is a matter of time and Ruud Gullit certainly has enough of that commodity. Even though he missed a few good opportunities, he made the right moves when it was crucial," the Amsterdam paper said.

Other comments were more skeptical.

The Amsterdam newspaper De Volkskrant noted Gullit played "far below par" but had scared Benfica plenty "just by being there."

"The specter of Ruud Gullit is clearly worth gold on a soccer pitch," said the paper in a comment on what it called "Gullit's resurrection."

The Amsterdam newspapers

Trouw said Gullit has only "a short recovery period in which he'll face a race against the clock."

Dutch team coach Leo Beenhakker noted earlier this month that Gullit was exhausted after playing his first full AC Milan match, a May 12 exhibition against Bologna.

Beenhakker warned at the time that he might drop Gullit from the Dutch team if the Dutch captain couldn't "play up to par for the entire ninety minutes of a game."

There were no papers on Dutch newstands Thursday, the day after AC Milan's victory, because of a public holiday here.

On Thursday, Beenhakker announced his final World Cup selection by dropping striker John Bosman and defender Edward Sturing from the team.

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♥ A Q 7 5
♦ K Q 6
♣ K 10 4

WEST EAST
♠ Q 8 5 ♠ J 10 7 3
♥ 9 6 3 ♥ J 10 8 2
♦ J 10 9 7 2 ♦ A 4
♣ A 3 ♣ 7 6 3

SOUTH
♠ A K 6
♥ A K 4
♦ Q 8 5 3
♣ Q J 9 5 2

The bidding:
South: West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

No matter what convention you add to your arsenal, in bidding or play, you have to give up something. Among the more popular defensive conventions adopted by experts is the lead of the jack, ten or nine against a no-trump contract.

shows possession of either none or two higher honors. That played a critical role in this hand from a team match.

The bidding at the two tables was identical. After South described a

balanced minimum North, with a full opening bid and also a balanced hand, had no ambitions beyond three no trump.

At both tables West led the jack of diamonds. At one table the lead had no conventional meaning and declarer had to guess whether it was away from the ace or not. With nothing to guide him, South elected to play the table's queen. East won the ace and returned a diamond and West forced out dummy's stopper.

When West gained the lead with the ace of clubs, the defenders could cash just enough diamond tricks to defeat the contract.

At the other table declarer was blessed with the knowledge that the opening lead signalled either two higher honors or none. Since it could not be two, it had to be none, marking East with the ace of diamonds. Therefore, declarer followed low from dummy to the first trick and the jack won. West continued with the ten to the queen and East's ace, but East had no diamond to return.

Declarer won the spade shift in hand and forced out the ace of clubs. That gave him a total of 10 tricks—four clubs, two spades, three hearts and a diamond—and a gain of 730 points.

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Yeltsin fails in initial bid to become president of Russia

MOSCOW (AP) — Populist Boris Yeltsin lost his initial bid Saturday to become president of the Soviet Union's largest republic, falling just short of the absolute majority needed from Russian lawmakers.

Yeltsin garnered 503 votes, 28 short of the majority of the 1,060 deputies he needed. His rival, Communist Party functionary Ivan Polozkov, received 479 votes.

With neither candidate elected, the Russian Congress of People's Deputies, parliament, must reopen nominations.

Deputies say Yeltsin may run again, or a new compromise candidate with better chances of winning a majority may surface.

Yeltsin's demands for faster reform led to a clash with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, but he has made a strong political

comeback and has the backing of millions of Muscovites.

The candidate backed by Gorbachev, Russian Premier Alexander Vlasov, withdrew from the race Friday after it became clear he lacked Yeltsin's popularity.

During his campaign, Yeltsin angered Gorbachev with calls for sovereignty for the Russian Republic, which includes Moscow, the seat of national leadership.

Gorbachev accused Yeltsin Wednesday of being anti-Soviet and said his plans for Russian autonomy would mean "the breakup of the Soviet Union."

Yeltsin pledged Friday that if elected he would defend the republic from Kremlin interference, but could bury personal differences and work with Gorbachev.

Yeltsin earlier criticised the government programme for a transition to a market economy, presented Thursday by Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov. The government plan includes price hikes that have caused panic hoarding by Soviet citizens.

Russia, by far the largest of the Soviet Union's 15 republics, comprises more than two-thirds of the country's territory and is home to half the Soviet populace.

A victory for Yeltsin would give the former Moscow party chief a platform from which to challenge Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"We are in a situation where we are being manipulated. Everything is being done to enable anyone to win except Yeltsin," said Bella Kurkova, one of the country's most popular television commentators.

Yeltsin was deposed as Moscow party chief after blasting Gorbachev for the slow pace of the Kremlin's reforms, but his popularity among Muscovites was proven when he won election to the national parliament by a landslide.

He also is a member of the Communist Party Central Committee.

With his bass voice booming through the hall of the great Kremlin Palace, Yeltsin Friday described for the congress his plans to promote Russian sovereignty, open a market economy, increase housing and food stores with consumer goods.

Lithuania premier sees independence in 2 years

WEST BERLIN (R) — Lithuania's Prime Minister said Saturday her rebel Baltic republic could be independent in two years and that attempts to stop that process could cost Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev his job.

Kazimiera Prunskiene told Reuters the independence movement in the Baltic states and events in Russia were natural processes that could not be stopped.

On Friday Gorbachev appeared to rule out special measures to speed up sovereignty,

saying the constitution provided for a period of no less than five years.

Asked about this, Prunskiene said: "I believe it is also possible to achieve (independence) in up to two years."

Earlier in the week, a senior Lithuanian official had said Gorbachev had offered to push through independence in two or three years if the republic suspended its declaration.

Lithuania said the offer was not enough, but Prunskiene left the door open for negotiations.

"We are ready to reach agree-

ment and mutual understanding through negotiations on this transitional process," she said before talks with West Berlin's governing mayor, Walter Momper.

"I hope it is possible to find compromises."

Prunskiene, in West Berlin for an all-German Catholic congress, was expected to meet West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

On the possibility that Gorbachev might use his new powers as president to impose direct rule on Lithuania, she said: "He could lose power if he tries to stop natural processes."

Squabble over Quebec throws Canadian government into crisis

MONTREAL (AP) — Three provincial leaders have thrown Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's government into crisis and provoked new fears of French-speaking Quebec's secession.

Mulroney was spending the weekend in intense one-on-one conferences with the provincial premiers, hoping to find a compromise and salvage what is known as the Meech Lake Agreement before a June 23 deadline.

Quebec refused to sign Canada's 1982 constitution. A proposed amendment containing five major points essential to Quebec's eyes was agreed to and signed by Mulroney and all 10 premiers at Meech Lake, near Ottawa, in 1987. They set a three-year deadline for ratification by all provincial legislatures.

The governments changed in three provinces, and the new

premiers — Clyde Wells of Newfoundland, Gary Filmon of Manitoba and Frank McKenna of New Brunswick — balked at the Meech Lake Agreement.

Of the five points, the most troublesome for many opponents — and virtually the only one the public remembers — would define Quebec as a "distinct society" from the rest of Canada.

Quebec has been careful to make no threatening noises, but Premier Robert Bourassa has repeated that while he is willing to consider further discussion later on the contents of the dissenting provinces, Quebec will accept no changes whatever to the agreement signed three years ago.

"I have this terrible feeling that we're capable of blowing this," said Alberta Premier Donald Getty, a strong Meech backer, after his meeting with Mulroney.

"We are gambling with our country here and the enormity of that should sink into people's minds."

Interviews with a wide range of Quebecois indicate many of them feel they are once again being rejected by English Canada. On the other hand, many Anglophone Canadians think Quebec is seeking special treatment, privileges and powers. This is sometimes coloured by strong anti-French feelings.

Temperatures mounted several degrees with the sudden resignation last week of Lucioe Bouchard, Mulroney's environment minister, longtime personal friend and lieutenant for Quebec.

Bouchard quit after a special parliamentary committee searching for a Meech Lake compromise issued its report.

North Korea calls for sharing single seat with South in U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — North Korea's ambassador said Friday that the two Korean states should begin early talks on joint membership in the United Nations and sharing a single seat with rotating responsibilities.

"Our new position by President Kim Il Sung is realistic and practical and based upon the changing world situation, which includes forthcoming German reunification and the union of the two Yemeni states," said Ambassador Pak Gil Yoo, the permanent observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It was the second straight day in which the government of Pyongyang promoted the proposal for a single U.N. seat before reunification.

President Kim said in a speech Thursday that the two Korean states should join the world body before reunification of the divided Korean peninsula, out

afterward — the previous position.

South Korea has not officially responded, but Asian diplomats said privately that the North Korean proposal was unrealistic and without precedent.

They said it was difficult to imagine how a Communist and non-Communist state with radically different systems could cooperate on foreign policy questions in the 159-nation world body.

Both Korean states currently hold non-voting observer status in the 160-nation body.

"If the North and South are to join the U.N. before Korea's reunification is achieved," President Kim said, "they must not hold two separate seats, but enter it jointly as one member in favour of the reunification cause."

South Korea has opened a campaign for single, early membership of the Seoul government,

unless both Korean states enter separately and simultaneously. North Korea rejects those formulas, saying they would perpetuate the division of the peninsula.

"We believe that joint membership should be considered in the interests of the Korean nation as a whole, and to avoid the continuation of division," Ambassador Pak said in an interview with the Associated Press.

"Our proposal is possible, if South Korea has the sincere will to solve our national problem," he said, adding that support from the United States, South Korea's main ally, also was important.

Early joint membership with a single seat, he said, would hasten the process of reunification.

"We are most eager to discuss this in a Korean dialogue," Ambassador Pak said, "and we have no problem with a dialogue at all, at any time."

Colombians under siege on eve of presidential elections

BOGOTA (R) — Colombians were under siege from car bombs on the eve of Sunday's presidential elections which will pass a verdict on the government's bloody nine-month-old confrontation with cocaine cartels.

A car containing 30 kilograms of explosives blew up in a residential area of the capital, Bogota, on Friday night, injuring at least five people in the fourth urban bombing in three days.

The blast destroyed three houses, damaged dozens more and brought down power cables in the Las Villas suburb, witnesses said.

Three bombs have exploded in the cocaine capital Medellin, 250 kilometres northwest of Bogota, since Wednesday. Nine people

were killed when a car bomb blew up outside a luxury hotel in the city Thursday.

Local authorities imposed a 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. curfew in Medellin Friday night in a bid to stop the bombings.

The bombers managed to get through despite an intensive security operation known as the "Democracy Plan" which the government has implemented to ensure people can vote safely.

Police say the drug barons, in their war on the state, have stepped up the bombing campaign to intimidate voters.

Thousands of police and soldiers were patrolling big cities, stopping vehicles and searching them. Police arrested hundreds of suspects in raids in Bogota.

They said 30 people were killed in shootings and guerrilla attacks Friday.

Western diplomats say the traffickers may be trying to scare voters into turning against front-running Liberal party candidate Cesar Gaviria, who has pledged to carry on with President Virgilio Barco's anti-drug offensive.

Some political commentators said fear of bombs could stop many people from voting Sunday. But Barco said Friday he was confident Colombians were not frightened. "The country will not let itself be scared," he told reporters.

Colombians will also vote Sunday in a referendum on whether to call a constituent assembly to reform the 1886 constitution.

Some political commentators said fear of bombs could stop many people from voting Sunday. But Barco said Friday he was confident Colombians were not frightened. "The country will not let itself be scared," he told reporters.

Colombians will also vote Sunday in a referendum on whether to call a constituent assembly to reform the 1886 constitution.

Moscow delays curbs on food buying

MOSCOW (R) — City authorities in the Soviet capital postponed a ban on food sales to non-Muscovites Saturday to take the steam out of panic buying sparked by looming price hikes likely to result from economic reforms.

The city council put off the ban until Monday and appealed to citizens to halt their hoarding spree.

The council had ordered a two-week food-buying ban on out-of-town residents from Saturday to curb mass purchases by shoppers trying to beat big price rises.

"We decided that it would not be right to do it today. Already buses from other towns are flooding in with people trying to buy goods. We will do it from Monday," council leader Yuri Luzhkov told a news conference.

Mass buying was sparked when Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov appeared on television Thursday to outline government plans to revamp the economy, under which basic food prices would soar.

Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov said city stores had sold more vegetable oil and flour Friday than they normally sold in a month and he urged the crowds thronging Moscow shops to be calm.

"The situation in the city is getting critical. There is a real danger of things getting out of control. Hundreds of thousands of people are in the shops," he said.

Popov said Moscow authorities had been taken completely by surprise by the speech and that Ryzhkov should have made clear that the reform package — currently being discussed in parliament — had not yet become law.

Roh ends visit to Japan; invites emperor to Seoul

TOKYO (R) — South Korean President Roh Tae-woo wound up his emotionally charged visit to Tokyo Saturday after winning expressions of remorse from Japan for its past colonial rule, and invited Emperor Akihito to Seoul to seal the reconciliation.

"I invited the emperor to visit Korea in the near future, at his convenience," Roh told a news conference before flying home via the western city of Osaka.

The date of the historic trip — the first to the Korean peninsula by a reigning Japanese monarch — would be arranged through diplomatic channels, palace officials said.

The visit was not expected to take place before early next year because of the emperor's enthusiasm due in November.

Roh made clear that, as far as the Seoul government was concerned, the issue of Japan's acknowledgement of guilt for its harsh 1910-45 occupation of Korea had been laid to rest.

"Both the emperor and the prime minister clearly stated Japan's responsibility for the unfortunate history between our two countries," he said.

"I believe we have finally resolved the issue."

On Thursday, Akihito went further than his late father, Emperor Hirohito, in voicing remorse for Japan's subjugation of the peninsula, which left bitter memories that are still alive today.

"I think of the sufferings your people underwent during this unfortunate period, which was brought about by my country, and cannot but feel the deepest regret," Akihito said. His father had merely said he regretted the past.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu was even bolder, expressing "my frank apologies for the intolerable suffering and sadness that the people of the Korean peninsula were forced to experience

because of my country's deeds."

While acknowledging that these Japanese statements resolved Seoul's long-standing demand for a formal apology, Roh insisted much more needed to be done to ensure fair treatment of the almost 700,000-strong Korean community in Japan. Many were brought to Japan as slave labour, others as their descendants.

"These people who have suffered a great deal in the past are living amongst you," he told Japanese and foreign reporters. "They want their human rights, their civil rights."

The two governments engaged in intensive talks before the presidential visit, and even as late as Friday night, in an attempt to reach compromises on legal and other obstacles to the integration of ethnic Koreans into Japanese society.

Among points agreed was the waiving of fingerprinting for the grandchildren of Korean immigrants born since last year.

"I asked (Kaifu) that the first and second-generation Koreans get the same treatment as the third generation."

Roh said progress was also achieved on two other difficult issues — Japanese help in repatriating Korean labourers left behind on Sakhalin Island when the Soviet Red Army seized it in 1945, and additional compensation for Korean victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb attacks.

Apart from the legacy of the past, the Japan-South Korean summit also dealt with the two countries' booming economies, with Roh soliciting Tokyo's help in slashing Japan's \$3.6 billion trade surplus with Seoul.

Prime Minister Kaifu also pledged efforts to transfer more high technology know-how to South Korea, he said.

Bush signs C. American aid bill

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP) — President George Bush has begun a pre-summer vacation by signing into law an aid package for Panama and Nicaragua.

The measure provides \$420 million for Panama, which is rebuilding after U.S. economic sanctions and an invasion last December to topple Manuel Antonio Noriega from power.

Nicaragua's new government, led by U.S.-backed President Violeta Chamorro, will receive \$300 million. Chamorro is seeking to revive Nicaragua's economy after 11 years of leftist Sandinista rule, civil war and U.S. sanctions.

Overall, the spending measure provides \$4.4 billion in domestic spending and foreign assistance. The administration's commitment to sending aid to Panama and Nicaragua led Bush to accept spending provisions for the pet domestic projects of some lawmakers.

The measure was flown to Bush's seaside Maine compound for his signature, and a White

House statement said Bush signed it Friday night.

Bush is vacationing at his Maine retreat before next week's summit with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

The White House had announced earlier that Bush had telephoned both Chamorro and Panamanian President Guillermo Endara.

The two Latin leaders "expressed their gratitude for the congressional action and thanked (Bush) for his efforts on behalf of their countries," Deputy White House Press Secretary Stephen Hart said in a statement.

"They stated that this is a major step forward in solidifying and supporting the growth of democracy in Panama and Nicaragua," Hart added.

President Guillermo Endara at a news conference Friday promised judicious use of the money for "the greatest benefit to all Panamanians." Nicaraguan presidential spokesman Danilo Lacayo said the money would "stabilise a little the situation we

live in."

Congress gave final approval to the \$420 million for Panama and \$300 million for Nicaragua as U.S. lawmakers rushed to adjourn for a weekend recess. Bush had asked for \$800 million in early March.

The lawmakers whittled the figure down and padded the bill with \$4 in domestic aid for every dollar of Latin aid.

When finally sent to Bush on a 308-108 House vote, the measure had swelled to more than \$4 billion. It included programmes that ranged from filling in a collapsed utility tunnel on a North Carolina street to giving the Samoan Islands a \$750,000 ferry boat.

It also included other foreign assistance: \$75 million to meet refugee needs around the world, \$45 million in anti-narcotics aid to Bolivia and Peru, \$30 million for aid to Caribbean countries and \$30 million for Africa.

But overshadowing those amounts was several billion dollars in domestic programmes.

Ceausescu's son denies genocide

SIBIU, Romania (Agencies) — Nicu Ceausescu, the playboy son of executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, denied at the start of his trial Saturday that his actions during Romania's bloody uprising last December amounted to genocide.

Nicu, wearing tinted glasses, looked haggard after spending five months in jail and undergoing surgery following a knife attack after his arrest.

He told the military tribunal: "What I have done does not amount to a true definition of genocide."

Nicu, who gave his age as 38, is accused of committing genocide by ordering troops to shoot unarmed demonstrators in Sibiu, the central Romanian city where he was Communist Party boss before his father's overthrow on Dec. 22 last year.

Eighty-nine people, mostly civilians, were killed in Sibiu and 218 injured before the Ceausescu regime collapsed there.

The trial, at which Nicu faces life imprisonment if convicted, was the most eagerly awaited of those at least six of the dictator's close relatives and was televised live.

Nicu, the youngest of Ceausescu's three children and once regarded as his successor as Romanian leader, was also charged separately with firearms offences.

After the reading of the lengthy indictment, Nicu, casually dressed in a red sweater, open-necked shirt and blue checked sports jacket, read a statement in which he claimed he had ordered shooting only in "special circumstances."

He explained that in a telephone conference on Dec. 17 his father had told him that the Transylvanian city Timisoara, where the uprising began, and other parts of the country, were under attack by foreigners.

That was the reason, Nicu said, why he had ordered the use of firearms without warning.

"This did not mean it was my intention that weapons should be used against the civilian population of Sibiu," he told the trial, being held in a hall where he once chaired leadership meetings of the local Communist Party.

Nicu Ceausescu's playboy lifestyle, womanising and drinking made him, for most Romanians, a hated symbol of the moral bankruptcy of his father's government.

He told the court he had three cars and \$11,000 in the Romanian Foreign Trade Bank and that the only food he ate in Sibiu was brought by plane each day from Bucharest.

He sat and leafed through papers while the indictment was read and smiled and shrugged at one stage in his testimony when the judge interrupted to tell him to be more precise. "Excuse me. It's the first time I've been (to court)," he said.

more Securitate troops in Sibiu because he could not rely on local forces to crush the uprising.

In the indictment the court heard that one of Ceausescu's ministers had invited Nicu to take over power on Dec. 22.

Nicu ordered a helicopter to fly him to Bucharest but when it failed to arrive he was driven there by his girlfriend.

On arrival in the capital he was recognised and arrested before he could join up with forces loyal to his father.

The trial is expected to last several days.

Nicu's sister Zoe and his half-brother Valentin are also both in detention awaiting trial on corruption charges.

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The trial is expected to last several days.

Nicu's sister Zoe and his half-brother Valentin are also both in detention awaiting trial on corruption charges.

Nicu's uncle Nicolae, one of the dictator's brothers, is being tried on a charge of multiple murder.

Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena were executed by firing squad on Dec. 25.

Meanwhile, the supreme court Friday rejected the final appeal by four of Ceausescu's top aides of their life sentences for backing the dictator's order to shoot in the December revolution, the state-run news agency Rompres reported.

The four were convicted on Feb. 2 of complicity in genocide.



Gorbachev to receive peace prize

ATLANTA (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has been named as the 1991 recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Non-violent Peace Prize. The award will be presented to Gorbachev on June 1 at the Soviet embassy in Washington, said Coretta Scott King, chief executive officer of the King Centre and widow of the slain civil rights leader for whom the prize is named.

"No leader has done more than President Gorbachev to de-escalate the arms race and pave the way for greater democracy and economic freedom around the world," Mrs. King said Friday.

The annual award includes a medal bearing the likeness of King, a citation and a \$1,000 stipend. The '91 award is being presented early so that it can be given to Gorbachev during his U.S. visit, said King Centre spokesman Steve Klein.

The 1990 recipient was the Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the civil rights group founded by King.

Raisa Gorbachev will visit the Library of Congress next Thursday during the superpower summit to formally open an exhibit of historic Russian manuscripts, the library said. A reception in the ornate Southwest Hall will be hosted by Armand Hammer, the Occidental Petroleum Corp. chairman and longtime Soviet business partner, who is underwriting the exhibit of 25 books and manuscripts from the Soviet Union. Some of the materials have never been exhibited in the Soviet Union and none has been seen outside that country, the library said. Among the 200 others expected to attend the reception are Vice President Dan Quayle's wife, Marilyn, and Sen. Claiborne Pell. First Lady Barbara Bush may also attend. Mrs. Gorbachev will be shown some American artifacts, including letters written by George Washington, and will get a demonstration of the library's computer data collection system and a look at the library's main reading room.

Bishop ordered to pay clergyman damages in libel suit

BODOE, Norway (AP) — A Lutheran bishop was convicted of libel after he called a fellow clergyman "disloyal" for writing anti-immigration letters to Norwegian newspapers. The Bodoe City Court, in a 2-1 decision, ordered Bishop Frederik Groeningsaeter to pay his subordinate, Pastor Olaf B. Dal, 10,000 kroner (\$1,492) in compensation. Groeningsaeter said he will appeal the verdict, which was reached Wednesday and published Friday. Dal wrote to newspapers in 1987 and 1988 opposing mass immigration to Norway. "In a number of articles he took a stand that was far from the official view of the church," Groeningsaeter said. "I was asked to respond by the newspapers and I did." The bishop was quoted as calling Dal disloyal to the church for exposing anti-immigration views. Dal sued, demanding 150,000 kroner (\$23,600) in compensation. "I always stressed that I was speaking as a private person, not as a clergyman," Dal said in a telephone interview.

UFO reportedly threatens milkman

MOSCOW (R) — Villagers near the Russian town of Lipetsk think they are being threatened by a UFO. The daily Selskaya Zhizn quoted Vladimir Akhmetiev as saying he was trailed by a shining ball one night as he drove his milk tanker to a dairy near Lipetsk, close to the southern city of Voronezh where Soviet media reported the landing of three-eyed extraterrestrials last autumn. It said Akhmetiev speeded up to escape the alien craft, "but even when he reached 100 kilometres per hour the ball was still following him. For half an hour he tried to throw it off his tail." When the terrified driver reached the dairy and told the watchman of his encounter, the man pointed silently to the ball, hovering above a nearby shop. Farmers in three villages also claimed to have seen the ball, the paper said, leading them to ask: "If thirty humanoids are our driver, who is going to deliver the milk?"